

K London

# CITY BIOGRAPHY,

CONTAINING

ANECDOTES and MEMOIRS

OF THE

Rise, Progress, Situation, & Character,

OF THE

ALDERMEN

AND OTHER

CONSPICUOUS PERSONAGES

OF THE

*Corporation and City of London.*

A sudden rise from a low station, as it sometimes shews to advantage the virtuous and amiable qualities which could not exert themselves before, so it more frequently calls forth to view, and exposes to open light, those spots of the soul, those base dispositions and hateful vices, which lie lurking in secret, cramped by penury, and veiled with dissimulation.—*Maxims and Reflections by Dr. Fortin.*

If *great men* will do what they please, they must expect that *little men* will say what they please, and call a cat—a cat.—*Id.*

---

SECOND EDITION,

CORRECTED, AND CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED.

---

London :

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

BY J. W. MYERS, NO. 2, PATERNOSTER-ROW;

AND SOLD BY J. PARSONS, NO. 21, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1800.

CITY BIOGRAPHY

CONTAINING

ANECDOTES AND MEMOIRS

OF THE

ALDERMEN

OF THE

ALDERMEN

AND VICE

CONSPICUOUS PERSONS

OF THE

Corporation and City of London



A HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LONDON, FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE BRITISH NATIONS TO THE PRESENT TIME. BY JOHN HENRY COOTE, ESQ. OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, ESQ. VOL. II. LONDON: PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD, 1830.

SECOND EDITION

REVISED AND CORRECTED BY THE AUTHOR.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD.

AND SOLD BY J. JOHNSON, NO. 1, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1830.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

---

IN a country like this, where every thing becomes a subject for public examination, the events of *to-day* will expel those of *yesterday*, as the circumstances of *to-morrow* will dissipate those of *to-day*.—*Velut unda supervenit undam*, so is the course of human occurrences; and, as the mind is ever grasping after something new, life becomes a *running history*, a *daily register of events*, which are so pressed upon the succeeding ones, that the greater part of mankind sink into their graves, and the memory of them is gone, as it were, with the sound of that knell that tolled them thither.---Thus life

“ Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,

“ To the last syllable of recorded time.”

CON-

## ADVERTISEMENT.

IN a country like this, where every thing becomes a subject for public examination, the events of to-day will excite those of yesterday, as the circumstances of to-morrow will dissipate those of to-day.—  
The world is perpetually changing, so is the course of human occurrences; and, as the mind is ever grasping after something new, life becomes a running battle, a daily register of events, which are so pressed upon the succeeding ones, that the greater part of mankind sink into their graves, and the memory of them is gone, as it were, with the record of that instant that rolled them off the stage.— Thus life

“Cries in this petty pace from day to day,  
To the last syllable of recorded time.”

CON.

# CONTENTS.

---

|                                | PAGE         |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| RIGHT Honourable Thomas Harley | 9            |
| — Sir Watkin Lewes             | 16           |
| — Sir William Plomer           | 23           |
| — Alderman Newnham             | 26           |
| — — Skinner                    | 28           |
| — — Boydell                    | 34           |
| — — Curtis                     | 37           |
| — Paul Le Mesurier             | 43           |
| — Brook Watson                 | 44           |
| — Sir J. W. Anderson           | 45           |
| — Sir Richard Carr Glynn       | 47           |
| — William Newman               | 49           |
| — G. M. Macauley               | <i>ibid.</i> |
| — Sir William Staines          | 51           |
| — William Lushington, Esq.     | 52           |
| — Sir John Hopkins             | 53           |
| — Sir William Hearne           | 54           |
| — Alderman Hamerton            | 55           |
| — — Price                      | 56           |
| — John Perring, Esq.           | 57           |
| — Peter Perchard, Esq.         | 58           |
| — Thomas Cadell, Esq.          | 59           |
| — George Hibbert, Esq.         | <i>ibid.</i> |
| — James Shaw, Esq.             | 60           |
| — Sir John Eamer               | <i>ibid.</i> |
| — Alderman Hart                | 61           |
| — Sir S. T. Janfen             | 62           |
| — William Beckford, Esq.       | 63           |
| — Sir James Esdaile            | 80           |
| — Sir Samuel Fludyer           | 82           |
| — Alderman Bull                | 84           |
| — John Sawbridge, Esq.         | 87           |
| — Alderman Calvert             | 91           |
| — — Clarke                     | 94           |
| — William Lee, Esq.            | 95           |
| Alderman                       |              |

|                       | PAGE         |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Alderman Oliver       | 96           |
| — Pugh                | <i>ibid.</i> |
| John Wilkes, Esq.     | 98           |
| Sir Thomas Halifax    | 113          |
| Alderman Woolridge    | 114          |
| John Sylvester, Esq.  | 116          |
| Sir Benjamin Tibbs    | 117          |
| Serjeant Glynn        | 118          |
| H. Kitchen, Esq.      | 119          |
| Sir James Sanderson   | 120          |
| Mathew Bloxam, Esq.   | 124          |
| Stephen Sayer, Esq.   | 126          |
| Alderman Burnell      | 129          |
| James Fenn, Esq.      | 130          |
| Sir Bernard Turner    | 131          |
| Alderman Plumb        | 135          |
| Sir Benjamin Hammet   | 136          |
| Alderman Kennett      | 139          |
| Thomas Baker, Esq.    | 141          |
| James Townsend, Esq.  | 142          |
| Sir J. W. Rose        | 144          |
| Alderman Wright       | <i>ibid.</i> |
| — Gill                | 145          |
| Serjeant Adair        | 146          |
| Deputy Birch          | 151          |
| H. C. Combe, Esq.     | 153          |
| Dr. Hugh Smith        | 162          |
| Sir John Barnard      | 170          |
| Alderman Brass Crosby | 187          |

---

# CITY BIOGRAPHY.

---

RIGHT HON. THOMAS HARLEY.

---

Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus.

---

Juv.

---

IT is a natural and honourable circumstance in a commercial country, when nobility, throwing aside foolish pride and prejudice, sends its offspring to the accounting-house, to enjoy the profits, and extend the limits of that commerce, which is the staple basis of the nation.

*Cicero* has said, that the same people should not be at once the *lords* and *factors*

B

of

of the earth: *Nolo eandem populum imperatorem et portitorem esse terrarum*, and this opinion might be consonant to the principles of the Roman government, but that great statesman did not live in the enjoyment of that liberty which sustains, extends, and ennobles *British* commerce.

Mr. Harley is brother to the late, and uncle to the present, Earl of Oxford; he shared the fate common to the younger sons of noble families, by beginning the world without money.

This misfortune he soon repaired by marrying the daughter of his father's steward, with whom he received a handsome fortune, and with which he commenced business in the wine-trade.

He

He was chosen Alderman of London in 1762, Member of Parliament for the City in the same year, Sheriff in 1764, and Lord Mayor in 1768.

He first rendered himself famous in the city by seizing the *boot* and *petticoat*, which the mob were burning opposite the Mansion-house, in derision of Lord Bute and the Princess Dowager, at the time the Sheriffs were burning the celebrated paper called "the North Briton." The mob were throwing the paper about as matter of diversion, and one of them fell unfortunately, with considerable force, against the front glass of Mr. Sheriff Harley's chariot, which it shattered to pieces. This gave the first alarm; the Sheriffs retired into the Mansion-house, and a man was taken up and brought there for examination, as a person concerned in

the riot. This man appeared to be a mere idle spectator; but his Lordship informed the Court, that, in order to try the temper of the mob, he ordered one of his own servants to be dressed in the clothes of the supposed offender, and conveyed to the Poultry Compter, so that, if a rescue should be effected, the prisoner would be still in custody, and the real disposition of the people discovered. However, every thing was peaceable, and the course of justice was not interrupted; nor did any insult accompany the commitment; whereupon the prisoner was discharged. What followed in the actual burning of the seditious paper, the Lord Mayor declared, (according to the best information,) arose from circumstances equally foreign to any illegal or violent designs. For these reasons, his Lordship concluded with declaring, that with the greatest respect for  
the

the Sheriffs, and a firm belief that they would have done their duty in spite of any danger, he should put a negative upon giving the thanks of the city upon a matter that was not sufficiently important for a public and solemn acknowledgment, which ought only to follow the most eminent exertions of duty.

For this refusal the Duke of Bedford moved in the House of Lords, that the corporation of *London* should be ordered to attend at the Bar to answer for their conduct, while the Duke of Richmond, who seconded the motion, talked of petitioning his Majesty to deprive the city of its charter, &c. &c. However, Lord Mansfield, with great coolness and good sense, explained the matter to the satisfaction of the House, and, at length, prevailed on the noble Dukes to give up a

motion which could not be justified according to the most rigid principles of reason, law, or liberty.

For this service, Mr. Harley was made a Privy Counsellor, but as he gained favor at court he lost it in the city, and was thrown out at the next election, as he was afterwards for the county of Hereford; but, on Mr. Foley's being made a peer, he was elected for that county in 1775, and has continued to represent it ever since.

Mr. Harley, in conjunction with Mr. Drummond, had the contract for paying the English army in America with foreign gold, by which they are said to have made a fortune of six hundred thousand pounds; notwithstanding which, in consequence of his expensive stile of living, and building what may very properly be termed a  
palace,

palace, at Berrington, in Herefordshire, there was, in his banking-house, something like a hesitation of payment in 1797, and he has since lived in retirement.

The city, (of which he has been now many years the *father*,) have lately appointed him to the situation of Governor of the Irish Society, which is about 300l. per annum.

## SIR WATKIN LEWES, KNIGHT.

CITY honors, like those of *another place*, are not always bestowed with the most *appropriate* distinction. It would, perhaps, perplex the wisest inquirer, in this instance, to point out the precise peculiarities that lifted the happy possessor of them into the foremost seat in the first city of the world; and yet, as the moral and *life-learned* BUTLER observes, on a similar occasion:—

Whose honesty they all durst *swear* for,  
Tho' not a man of them knew wherefore.

Sir Watkin Lewes is descended of a very respectable family in Wales, and his attention to those of his own country shews, that he does not wish, like many of our *new men*, to have the place of his  
nativity

nativity forgotten, least it should happen to lead to disagreeable discoveries.

After the earliest bitter rudiments of school-learning (to use an expression of Fielding) had been *inoculated* into his tail by the strong arm of a Welsh parson, Sir Watkin, the hopeful heir of the family, was sent to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was a cotemporary with the late Judge Wilson and Mr. Serjeant Adair, and where he took a degree of Master of Arts.

'The next scene in which we have to view him is the Court of *Chancery*, and if practice were the *criterion* of ability, much might be assumed, for we have been informed, that he had a more than ordinary share of those *still* benefits that fall to the share of the practisers of this Court.

A wife

A wife with a fortune of 50,000*l.* and an honorary title, communicated by the instant virtue of the sword, drew the quiet Knight from "*the noiseless tenor of his way,*" and plunged him into situations of a very different complexion.

*My Lady*, perhaps, had certain *expectancies* that the cold Chancery-Pleader was not exactly calculated to fulfil so well as she might wish, and *Sir Knight* might have deemed his new dignity of no utility, if confined to the private path of life.

"Paulum sepultæ distat inertię  
Celata virtus."

Sir Watkin must from this moment be regarded as the man of gallantry and fashion, as the practiser of all those arts by which popularity is aimed at, and fame  
sometimes

sometimes acquired. Where can you discover a public subscription that boasts not the name of Sir Watkin Lewes?

To participate in national representation has been the Knight's ruling passion, the ardency of which a violent rebuff, four times repeated, was not able to abate. These contests are said to have cost him 30,000*l*.

Sir Watkin represented the city of London in the three last parliaments. Whether his talents in the Senate warrant his anxiety to exhibit them in so distinguished a place is not for us to determine. His constituents have had occasion to try them, and are therefore in possession of the best proof whether they have answered the purposes expected of him. He voted with the Minister upon all great questions, except

cept where his seat might be supposed endangered by too perfect a compliance; the *Tobacco-bill* he of course opposed. His parliamentary conduct is on the whole followed by a negative sort of merit.

Sir Watkin is now Colonel of the East Regiment of the City of London Militia, and High Bailiff of the Borough, a situation worth about 12,00l. per annum.

He was first called into public life by being sent up at the head of the Grand Jury from Pembroke to compliment Crosby the Lord Mayor, and Alderman Oliver in the Tower; was elected Sheriff of London and Middlesex the year after Colonel Luttrell (now Earl Carhampton) had been so unconstitutionally seated in the room of the *legal* Member for that county; and, upon a call of the House, Sir Watkin, in conjunction

junction with his Colleague, the late Mr. Oliver, summoned Mr. Wilkes, and as Member took him to the bar of the House, and demanded his seat.

During his mayoralty, the Lords of the Admiralty insisted, on their right of executing press-warrants in the city without the permission of the Chief Magistrate, and commissioned Captan Kirk and four Lieutenants, at the head of a numerous press-gang to enter the city; Sir Watkin issued his warrant to the City-Marshal, arrested the five Officers, and committed them to Newgate, thereby defending the rights of the citizens, the authority of the magistrate, and the constitution of the country.

Sir Watkin highly deserves the esteem of the people of England. The service he has rendered them was not the service of a day

day or of a transient period : he brought back parliamentary election to constitutional principles : the dignity of Parliament is indebted to him, and public and private virtue owe him acknowledgments, while the laws enacted for the regulation of elections have been roused from their dormant state, and directed to their natural objects and legal operations. Every man, therefore, who possesses a regard for the public, must feel a willing gratitude to him who has rendered such essential services to the constitution of his country.

In private life, Sir Watkin bears no unenviable acknowledgments ; he is esteemed by his friends a hospitable and well-tempered, pleasant, *companionable* man.

In support of this last qualification, may be quoted his pleasant answer to the scandalous

dalous and indecent challenge of Parson John Horne Tooke, although the epistolary credit of the writing is generally attributed to the late arch-chamberlain of the city.

---

SIR WILLIAM PLOMER.

Populus me sibilat, at mihi plaudo ipse domi  
Et nummum contemplor in arca.—

Sir William boasts no illustrious descent. With a small capital, he began life in a dark oil-shop in the neighbourhood of Aldgate.

He increased his fortune by marrying a woman who was the niece of a wash-woman, known by the descriptive appellation of *check-apron Sall*.

Having

Having saved 30,000*l.* he attained the highest city-honors. The year of his mayoralty was disgraced by a *boxing-match*, occasioned by a dispute about a few pence on the subject of a pot-house reckoning. Alderman *Plumb*, having given *Plomer* the lie, *Sir William* complimented him with two black eyes.—It was made the subject of a humourous caricature.

Like most Aldermen, he is fond of good eating; and a story is told of him, that, at a celebrated tavern near the Exchange, at an annual feast, instituted under pretence of charity, an unlucky wag perceived the claw of a fowl sticking out of his pocket, which he soon displayed in triumph over *Sir William's* head, to the great amusement of the company. *Sir William* however very solemnly declared that he  
was

was as innocent as the *child unborn*, and that the leg of a fowl must either have dropped into his pocket through the negligence of a waiter, or been conveyed there by the malicious address of some one who sat near him.

He defended the city against press-war-rants.

Sir William retired from business many years since, extremely rich.

## ALDERMAN NEWNHAM.

Mr. Nathaniel Newnham is the son of the late — Newnham, Esq. Member for Arundel, who even exceeded *Elwes* in penury. He used to carry a bucket in his old chaise, and water his horses, as well as hay and corn to feed them, to avoid stopping at an inn. This being premised, it is almost unnecessary to add, that he accumulated a very large fortune.

A sum amounting to 12,000*l.* was all that fell to the share of the present Alderman, with which he began the world as a *sugar-baker*.

A few years afterwards one of his brothers having been accidentally drowned, he succeeded to *his* fortune, and commenced

ced *banker*, in which line of business he has continued ever since.

He was chosen Alderman on the patriotic interest, served the office of Sheriff with Mr. George Hayley, and was chosen Mayor in the year 1783, under patronage of the same party.

He lost his election for the city in the year 1790, and in 1792 became an *Alarmist*, when he again offered himself a candidate for the city on the ministerial interest, upon the occasion of Mr. Brook Watson vacating his seat, on being appointed Commissary General of the army in Flanders; but his *old* friends the Patriots *in turn* deserted him, and his *new* friends not choosing to support him, he was without a single uplifted hand in his favour, and left the hall

with the strongest marks of disapprobation from the audience.

He is said to be remarkably fond of *fruit*, and to prefer it *green* !

---

#### ALDERMAN SKINNER.

Mr. Skinner's birth was obscure, and his education confined; he was born at Old Brentford, in the year 1740, and was apprenticed by the parish of Isleworth to a coffin-maker in Newgate-street.

He was a sober attentive lad, and from his regular attendance at a meeting-house  
of

of Independents in Silver-street, Wood-street, recommended himself to a Mr. Howell, a hosier in Newgate-street, who supplied him with a small sum of money, with which he commenced petty household-broker, salesman, and undertaker. He furnished the *living* with little second-hand articles, and the *dead* with the last of all conveniences, a *coffin*; and by persevering industry, accompanied with an acute turn of mind, he has risen by degrees to be the first Auctioneer in the kingdom, and is almost universally employed to sell the estates, &c. &c. &c. which luxury, folly, caprice, and death, transfer from one possessor to another.

The quantity of landed property and other things of value which pass through his hands in the course of a year are almost

beyond conception, and his profits bear an adequate proportion.

His wife was the daughter of Mr. White, a saw-maker, with whom he received a portion of one hundred pounds.

After a few years of successful trade in Goswell-street, he became an Auctioneer, and was received into copartnership with Messrs. Good, Dyke, and Jacques. In 1788, a disagreement between these gentlemen caused a dissolution of the copartnership. — Mr. Jacques considered himself ill used, and published a state of facts, to which however we wish not to recur. A counting-house quarrel contains little matter of entertainment, and the recapitulation of their respective statements would only be a developement of those

those *finesses* by which money-getting men endeavour to forward their own interests.

Having soon after relinquished the co-partnership of Mr. Good, Mr. Skinner was elected Alderman of Queenhithe, and in 1783 served the office of Sheriff, together with Sir Barnard Turner, and, in the due period of rotation, became Lord Mayor of London in 1794.

A confined education and an extensive field of action are so incompatible, that propriety in all instances is hardly to be expected from this conjunction. The general character of a man must be taken, independent of these particular points, and in the result of *that* Mr. Skinner has a right to exult.

His conduct in the mayoralty was remarkably correct; the propriety and magnificence of his first dinner are well remembered : his conduct on the trials for High Treason will be long spoken of to his honor, and his declining to stand the election for the city, that he might not thwart the interests of his friend, Mr. Alderman Coombe, was spirited and proper,

His family consists of two sons and five daughters. His eldest son is partner in a brewhouse at the Hermitage, Wapping. His youngest son, who is also his youngest child, is now a partner with him and Mr. Dyke. His eldest daughter is married to Mr. Wright, the Surveyor in Hatton-Garden ; his second is the widow of the late Sir James Sanderson, Bart. which marriage took place at the Mansion-house  
during

during the mayoralty of her father. His third is married to Mr. De Boeck, a merchant at Brussels. His fourth to Mr. Ludford Harvey, a Surgeon, of Red-lion Square; and his youngest daughter, a most amiable and beautiful young lady, is yet unmarried.

Peter Pindar has thought proper to introduce the worthy Alderman in the ludicrous story of the Royal Mutton. Peter's *licentia poetica* could not however attach any thing really ridiculous to so worthy a character. We believe the Alderman to have done his duty as well on that occasion as on every other where his character as a magistrate was to be sustained.— However, the story is a good one, and well told; and probably the worthy Alderman is as ready to laugh at it as the more indifferent reader.

ALDER-

## ALDERMAN JOHN BOYDELL

Came to town a poor lad from Denbighshire, and lived many years with his wife in the most extreme poverty. He was born in 1719 at Dorrington, in Shropshire, of which place his grandfather was vicar.

He has risen into fortune and a degree of fame by purchasing the copyrights in the re-prints and paintings of artists.

The charge against the English nation of a want of true taste, in suffering the arts to be neglected, and artists to pine in obscurity, is so unjust, that we cannot forbear giving the following anecdote, which, with many that might be mentioned

tioned to the honour of other gentlemen, will completely invalidate that imputation.

The ingenious Mr. Woollett, early in life, was employed by the Alderman to engrave four plates, one of Niobe, and three others. It is but ordinary justice to the merit of the Artist to say that Niobe stands unrivalled in the opinion of amateurs; and, though the price agreed upon for the four plates was one hundred and eighty pounds, yet, upon the completion of the work, Alderman Boydell was so well pleased with the exquisite and elegant manner of the engraving, that he generously made that sum up four hundred and twenty pounds. And when Mr. Copley was employed to paint the celebrated picture of the death of Major Pierson, the price was left to Mr. Copley as an artist, a gentleman, and a man of honor. Mr.

Copley's

Copley's demand was eight hundred pounds, which Mr. Boydell instantly acceded to; and, when the picture was finished, he cheerfully paid down the money, and gave Mr. Copley the exclusive benefit of exhibiting it.

He was the first Alderman chosen on the ministerial interest after the decline of the patriotic party in 1783.

ALDER-



EUROPEAN MAGAZINE.



WILLIAM CURTIS ESQ<sup>R</sup>

*Alderman and M.P. for the City of London.*

*Published by J. Sewell Cornhill March 1<sup>st</sup> 1799.*

## ALDERMAN CURTIS.

This Gentleman is the son of a Presbyterian citizen, and was rigidly educated in his father's religion.

He commenced his political life by offering himself a candidate for the borough of Seaford, in Sussex, in which however he failed, not having a single vote. He afterwards succeeded to the Alderman's gown, and represented the city in the year 1790.

He was Lord Mayor in 1796.

He may be considered in various points of view :

As

As an *Alderman* and a *Biscuit-Baker*.

As a *Fisherman*\* and a *Banker*.

As a *Loan-monger* and a *Contractor*.

As a *Member of Parliament* and an  
*Orator*.

And as a man of *wit* and *humour*.

His first occupations have procured him great wealth : his wit has procured him fame : his *toasts* will never be forgotten, viz.

“ The *three C's*,—*Cox, King, and Curtis*.”†

“ A speedy peace, and soon.”

Evil

\* As a fisherman, he is the Polyphemus of his time.

His rod was made out of the strongest oak,  
His line a cable, which no storm e'er broke ;  
His hook was baited with a dragon's tail,  
He sat upon a rock, and bobb'd for whale.

† Those who affect to deride this effusion of social wit are not aware of the Alderman's learning, of which

Evil sometimes however comes from an over flippancy of *tongue* ; it has brought the worthy Alderman *more than one black eye*.

Some wicked wits have amused themselves with writing epitaphs for him. Of many specimens, take the following :

Herelies William Curtis, our late worthy Lord Mayor,  
Who has left *this here* world, and is gone to *that there*.

Another :

Here lies Will Curtis.—

Dirt to dirt is.

The worthy Alderman's hospitality to the late good-humoured and gossiping

which this is a decisive instance and proof. The Alderman well knew that our *C* and our *K* are alike derived from the Greek *kappa* ; Κοχ, Κωγ, and Κυρις, therefore, it is plain, all begin with the same letter. Alas! how few Aldermen are there who understand *Greek* like Alderman Curtis !

James

James Boswell, the humble follower and biographer of Dr. Johnson, is well known ; and it is probable that the pleasures of the table, in which no man more joyously engaged, shortened his life. To write the life of a *great* man is no easy task, and to write that of a *big* man may be no less arduous. Whether the Alderman really expected to be held up to future fame by the biographer of Johnson cannot easily be ascertained ; the wish and expectation, if it existed, was however frustrated by the decease of poor Jemmy. The epitaph written on him by the Alderman is however not without character and neatness.

*Epitaph on James Boswell, of Auchinleck, Esq.*  
Here lies good-humor'd joyous Jemmy Boswell,—  
In that there other world let's hope he does well.

The verses written by the Alderman upon the late most glorious victory at the  
Mouth

mouth of the Nile shew at once his patriotism, his wit, and his resolution, in that he is not to be laughed out of his aforesaid excellent toast :

Great Nelson, in the grandest stile,  
Bore down upon the shores of Nile,  
And there obtained a famous victory,  
Which puzzles much the French Directory.  
The impudence of *them there* fellows,  
As all the newspapers do tell us,  
Had put the Grand Turk in a pet,  
Which caus'd him send to Nelson an aigrette;  
Likewise a grand pelisse, a noble boon,—  
Then let us hope a *speedy* peace and *soon*.

We cannot positively say that these excellent lines, which, unlike other poetry, contain no fiction, but plain and undeniable matter of fact, were wholly indicted by the worthy Alderman; it is not impossible that his Worship's barber may have a hand in them. It would be hard indeed, if, in his operations upon the Al-

D

derman's

derman's *caput*, he should not have absorbed some of the effluvia of the wit and genius contained in it. Like his predecessor Sir John, he is not only witty in himself, but the cause of wit in other men.

In justice to his Lordship's barber, we ought not to omit the epigrammatic distich made by him on his Lordship's election to the mayoralty.

Our present Mayor is William Curtis,  
A man of weight, and that *your sort* is.

This, when read at table, received, as it deserved, great commendation, and his Lordship assured the company that it had not taken his barber above three hours to produce it *extempore*.

*At an election for the City, Sir Wm engaged the vote of his Barber, who delayed coming to the Poll, Sir Wm became anxious, I sent his servant to know the cause, who sent for an<sup>r</sup>. that he had got a better customer, than his Master. He was not worth so so - the serv<sup>t</sup>. bro<sup>t</sup> his an<sup>r</sup>. but Sir Wm insisted upon knowing all the Barber said, after long hesitation, well then he said "you was out fit to carry Gato to a Bear, & what did you say to him, why Sir I said your was,"*

## PAUL LE MESURIER, Esq.

He is the son of a person in Alderney, who, like many other worthy persons of that and the neighbouring isle, was suspected of smuggling. The present Paul commenced his mercantile concerns, connected with his native isle, in the city of London, in a little office over a gateway in Cloak-lane, where he lived many years with very little success.

From his acquaintance with Mr. *Rose*, he got himself elected for Southwark, a director of the East-India Company, and an Alderman of London in 1784 ; he prudently declined his seat at the last election.

He has almost as much wit as Alderman Curtis, but none of his conviviality.

## BROOK WATSON.

Was born at Plymouth, in Devonshire, son of a journeyman taylor, to which trade he served an apprenticeship.

His sister cried hot rolls about Plymouth till very lately.

He was the first ministerial candidate that could ever carry an election for Member of Parliament for the city, which he did against Alderman Crosby, the tried friend of the people, in 1784.

He attended the meeting of the quintuple alliance (London, Middlesex, Westminster, Southwark, and Surry) and carried his ideas of *passive obedience* so far, as to move that the late *Dr. Jebb* should not be heard; he was, however, hissed out.

SIR

SIR JOHN W<sup>M</sup>. ANDERSON.

Sir John William Anderson is the son of a day-labourer at Hartley-Row, in Hampshire, and was not born at Dantzic, as is generally supposed.

He was chosen an Alderman on the death of Sir Thomas Halifax, and was Lord Mayor in 1797; was elected Member for the city on the death of Alderman Sawbridge, and has continued to represent it ever since.

This worthy Alderman most humanely took a very active part in soliciting the last Insolvent-bill, which owed very much of its success to his philanthropic exertions;

the relief it would have afforded, as brought in by the worthy Alderman, was very much reduced by its passage through the Upper House.

When the King went in state to St. Paul's in the spring of 1798, the Lord Mayor, as is usual, met his Majesty at Temple-bar, and rode before him on horseback to the cathedral. Sir John, not having been on horseback for upwards of twenty years, was intimidated, and to prevent any accident, had two grooms to lead the horse, and a man on each side to hold his legs, which had a very ludicrous appearance.

SIR

## SIR RICHARD CARR GLYNN,

*The late Lord Mayor.*

He is the second son of the late Sir RICHARD GLYNN, Bart. formerly Lord Mayor and Member for the city of London, but who lost his election in 1768, in consequence of voting against Mr. Wilkes; he was, however, chosen for Coventry, which he represented at his death.

He is said to be related to John Glynn, the famous Chief Justice in the time of Cromwell.

The story of the two Westminster scholars, and their tearing the curtain, is well known. The boy who tore the

'D 4

curtain

curtain was, (according to some) the above-mentioned *John Glynn*, (according to others) *Richard Nicholas*, a judicial character of the same period. See, however, where the pardon is imputed to a different interest, in *Thurlow's State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 368.

The present Sir Richard's mother was the celebrated *Miss Carr*, daughter of the late Sir Robert Carr, silk-mercator, of Ludgate, the favourite of the late Duke of York.

He is a Banker in Birchin-lane, and a supporter of the Minister.

WIL-

## WILLIAM NEWMAN,

An Alderman and a Leather-Cutter, twice disappointed of the mayoralty from his opposition to Government.

He is the son of a poor man, and raised himself by merit and industry, with clean hands.

---

## GEORGE M. MACAULEY.

His father was a Captain of a coasting vessel on the Isle of Wight, and was there killed in a fall from a cliff, leaving the present Alderman and eight children unprovided for ; a subscription was raised for  
their

their support by the Gentlemen of that island, and the present Alderman sent to London, in the counting-house of Abel and Co. in which situation he married the beautiful Miss Theed, with whom he had 20,000*l.* which put him above the world, and enabled him to procure an Alderman's gown.

He attempted, though unsuccessfully, to become a member of the East India Company in 1784.

Mr. Macaulay is the only man who ever fitted out an entire East Indiaman at his own expence, which however turned out a misfortune. The Directors of the Company gave him no sanction, and *in consequence* he ceased to be a favourite at the Treasury.—He is a man of considerable abilities.





SIR WILLIAM STAINES.  
*Late Worthy Lord Mayor*  
*of the City of London.*

*Pub<sup>d</sup> by R. S. Kirby II London, Horse Yard, & T. Scott 447, Strand. Oct. 31. 1803.*

## SIR WILLIAM STAINES, KNT.

A Paviour and a Stone-mason, made a fortune honorably, and married his cook-maid.

His *manners* may be judged from the following anecdote. At a city-feast, when Sheriff, sitting by General Tarleton, he thus addressed him : “ Eat away at the pines, General, for we must pay all the same, eat or not eat !”

He was Sheriff in 1797.

WILLIAM

**WILLIAM LUSHINGTON, Esq.**

He is the son of a clergyman, who possessed the living of Bletchington, in Sussex, value 80l. per annum.

He was sent to India very early in life, with his two brothers, one of whom died in the black hole at Calcutta ; the other is now a Nabob, a Director of the East India Company, a Baronet, and a Member of Parliament.

The present Alderman was supposed to have made a large fortune ; but, in the late pressure upon the West-India merchants, was certainly very near making something like a stop, if he had not been supported by a loan of the Exchequer-paper.

He

He was one of the original founders of the society of the Friends of the People, and an advocate for parliamentary reform *till the loan*; he now votes with Ministry, and *feels* the necessity of carrying on the war.

---

### SIR JOHN HOPKINS

Was made an Alderman on the death of Mr. Plumb, and was Sheriff and Lord Mayor in rotation. He was formerly a chemist in Paternoster-row.

A man may know the art of *making gold*, without finding out the *Philosopher's stone* : he is a strong ministerialist, and very rich.

SIR

SIR WILLIAM HEARNE, KNT.

*Attorney at Law.*

This Gentleman became rich by what is vulgarly called a *windfall*.

He has been frequently an under-sheriff, though it is expressly declared by statute, that no practising attorney shall be an under-sheriff. Last year he was High Sheriff.

It has been his frequent boast, that he has sued out more bailable writs than any man in the profession.

ALDER.

## ALDERMAN HAMERTON.

This Gentleman is a City-paviour, and from being a poor boy has raised himself to affluence.

One of his men found a fifty-pound note, and honestly took it to him. The Alderman gave him his *thanks*. This anecdote of his *liberality* was published at the time he was chosen Alderman, in opposition to Mr. Waddington.

ALDER-

## ALDERMAN PRICE,

A wholesale oil-man, and a most respectable character.

He was chosen an Alderman on the death of Mr. Wilkes.

He married a Mrs. *Rugg*, a widow with a large fortune, and the widow was satisfied ; for, on being asked immediately after *marriage* how she liked it, " Very well, (said she ;) I sold my *old Rugg* for a *good Price*."

JOHN

## JOHN PERRING, Esq.

He is the son of a poor man in Devonshire ; his uncle went out to India a servant to Sir Thomas Rumbold, and at length became Secretary to the Government at Madras, where he realized a fortune of 40,000*l*. On his return to England, he married the beautiful daughter of a neighbouring clergyman, on whom he settled ten thousand pounds ; and, in consequence of her extreme good behaviour, intended settling his whole fortune upon her ; he died, however, before he could sign his will, and the present Alderman became his heir.

E

He

He is said to be the richest man of the whole Court of Aldermen, and aspires to the honor of a seat in Parliament for the City.

---

PETER PERCHARD, Esq.

Originally a Silversmith, and many years an Agent for Alderney and Guernsey.

He was chosen Alderman this year in the room of Mr. Wright, and is an opulent and respectable character.

THOMAS

## THOMAS CADELL, Esq.

Chosen an Alderman on the death of Mr. Gill.

He is perhaps the first bookseller in London, or the world : he succeeded Mr. Miller, and like him has made a large and reputable fortune.

---

## GEORGE HIBBERT, Esq.

Chosen Alderman this year, on the death of Sir James Sanderson.

A man of great property from Jamaica, of which island *his* is considered the first house.

## JAMES SHAW, Esq.

Seven years ago a Clerk in the house of Douglas and Co. America-square, Merchants, in which he is now a partner.

He was elected an Alderman on the resignation of Sir Benjamin Hammet.

---

## SIR JOHN EAMER, Knt.

Chosen Alderman on the death of Mr. Sawbridge : he was Sheriff in 1795.

He formerly kept a small grocer's shop in Leadenhall-street, and is at present Lieutenant-Colonel of the East-London Militia ; he now carries on a great trade in the wholesale grocery business in Wood-street, Cheapside.

DEPUTY

## ALDERMAN HART.

He was first chosen Alderman for the Ward of Bridge-within, from whence he was afterwards ousted by a *Quo Warranto* information obtained against him on the prosecution of the late William Neate, Esq. and on trial was declared illegally elected. Mr. Neate having died during the suit, Mr. WOOLRIDGE was chosen Alderman of that Ward.

He was afterwards chosen for Dowgate Ward. While canvassing the Ward, in order to add suitable dignity to his appearance, he borrowed *Sir Thomas Halifax's* wig. Nor is this the only laughable circumstance that attaches to the character of Alderman Hart.

His wife applied to Doctor's Commons for a separate maintenance, and alleged

in her petition, that he was in frequent habits of *flogging* her. The Court, (not acceding to Judge Buller's doctrine of the *thumb-stick*) allowed her 300l. per annum.

He served the office of Sheriff with Sir William Plomer. He was afterwards a bankrupt, and latterly frequently officiated in his magisterial capacity, for the different Aldermen.

---

### SIR S. THEODORE JANSEN,

A character illustrious in the annals of this country, in the several capacities of Alderman, Sheriff, Mayor, Member of Parliament, and Chamberlain.

As an advocate for public liberty, and a zealous defender of the rights of the people, his name deserves equal renown with those of Hampden and Sydney.

From



BRITISH  
7 DE 71  
MUSEUM



**WILLIAM BECKFORD, Esq.**

From misfortunes in commerce, he became a bankrupt, and was afterwards elected Chamberlain of the City, when he paid all his former debts with interest, and then resigned his office. He lived a few years afterwards, and died in virtuous independence about the year 1776.

---

WM. BECKFORD, Esq.

Mr. Beckford was a native of Jamaica. On his first coming over to England, at about the age of fourteen, he was sent to Westminster-school, where he studied with great applause under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Friend, then chief master, a gentleman of extensive knowledge in the

Classics, as appears from his many well-framed inscriptions upon the tombs in Westminster-abbey.

At this seminary Mr. Beckford became acquainted with many of the principal nobility and men of genius. It was here that the intimacy between him and Lord Mansfield began ; as also with Dr. Johnson, the late Bishop of Gloucester, and the Earl of Kinnoul ; *these three* were called the *triumvirate* by their schoolfellows, they being the best scholars at that seminary, and the most ready at extempore verses.

While here, Mr. Beckford translated some of the Classics, which he afterwards wrote out in a fair hand, but they were all destroyed by the fire at Font-hill some years since.

He

He was chosen Member of Parliament in 1747, both for London and Petersfield, but preferring the former, he gave to the latter 400*l.* for paving their streets, as an acknowledgment of the honor conferred upon him. In 1753, he at once managed matters so as to get himself elected for the city of London, and his brother Richard Beckford, a Counsellor at Law, to be returned Member for the city of Bristol, notwithstanding a strong opposition, and that Richard was in Jamaica, and could not attend. This brother dying in 1756, the Lord Mayor became still more opulent, by the increase of his brother's fortune, which was reckoned to amount to 10,000*l.* per annum.

His speeches in the House of Commons, and upon all public occasions, were nervous and spirited: he was not ashamed to  
acknow-

acknowledge he was no courtier, and that he disdained being one of the supernumeraries attending the throne.

When the affair of bringing over the Hanoverian and Hessian troops, in 1755, came to be debated in the House of Commons, he seconded Mr. Pitt in every speech made by him against that measure; nay, he was utterly against all continental connections; for, in December, 1759, when the state of the German war came before them, he plainly declared, that the support thereof was more burthensome than even the yoke of an enemy,

“ We (said he) pay for every thing at the most exorbitant rate : here is, in the last accounts, an article of a drawbridge, valued at 80,000*l*. and I have a letter in my pocket from a connoisseur in these matters,

matters, who declares that, between man and man, it is not at the utmost worth above 7000l. ; however, the overplus will be a pretty perquisite in the pocket of a hungry foreigner; but, God help us, we must pay for all !”

In the election 1761, the papers rung with his encomiums, and among others was the following epigram :

Augusta, see ! behold Pitt's gen'rous friend,  
Whom all the patriot-virtues recommend ;  
Hear every tongue proclaim him good and great,  
Rend'ring the hero and the man complete.

He was an enemy to every national distinction, and, even in the heat of party, discovered an uneasiness at those who carried it too far; for, being connected with North-Britons from his infancy, having had his children educated by them, and marrying a lady originally from thence,  
he

he shewed the utmost respect to people of merit from that country upon every occasion.

By his immense fortune, so distantly situated, he had it in his power to provide for many people who had not bread in their own country, and there are numbers in the city of London now worth thousands, who, when they first went over to Jamaica under his protection, had not a fixpence in the world.

There was a singularity in the whole of this man's active life which would justify ample speculation.—The different characters he affected to possess to reconcile with each other, and sometimes even to blend in one motly mass, would  
furnish

furnish a most curious subject for the biographer.

He was,

1. An eminent West-India Planter and a Merchant.
2. A Member of Parliament.
3. A Militia-Officer.
4. A Provincial Magistrate.
5. An Alderman of London.
6. A man of taste and dissipation.
7. A country-gentleman.

Mr. Beckford wanted the external graces of manners and expression,—adorned with those accomplishments, he would have made a first-rate figure. He possessed a sound understanding and very extensive knowledge of British politics, especially that important part of it which relates to trade and commerce; nor did he ever disgrace

disgrace himself by a variableness or inconsistency of conduct. His manners were not pleasant ; but this circumstance did not arise so much from a crabbed disposition, as from an ardent, impetuous turn of mind, whose fervour he always indulged. This impetuous animation, accompanied with an inharmonious voice and vehemence of action, prevented his public speaking, as well as his private conversation, from receiving that attention and affording that pleasure which from his knowledge and abilities the one might be supposed to have deserved, and the other to have produced. In the House of Commons he oftentimes called forth the laughter, and frequently promoted the langour, of his audience, from no other cause than the neglect of digesting and arranging the matter he delivered.

With

With whatever irregularity, however, he might discourse as a senator, he never spoke in that character without conveying very solid information upon the subject before him. He most certainly did not possess that strong, rapid, convincing oratory which draws the heart after it, and hushes opposition into silence; nevertheless instances are not wanting of his success *in this particular*. One instance alluded to, and the circumstances attending it, were as follow :

At a meeting of the Livery of London at Guildhall, for the nomination of Members to serve them in Parliament, Mr. Beckford, who had already represented them, attended, in order to justify himself against the accusation then generally prevalent throughout the city—*that he had not duly attended, for some time past, his duty*

*duty as an Alderman.* — The hall was crouded in every part of it; and when Mr. Beckford came forward to address the Livery, he was received with the most tumultuous marks of contempt and aversion.—For upwards of an hour he attempted to speak, and was prevented by the hisses, groans, and outrageous displeasure of the irritated assembly. At length his resolution prevailed, silence was obtained, and he addressed the Common Hall in the following manner:—  
“ Gentlemen of the Livery and Fellow-Citizens, I thought it my duty to attend here this day, both in justice to you and to your faithful humble servant. I had been informed, and my present experience convinces me I was truly informed, that a very unfavourable opinion had gone forth against me among my late worthy constituents. Permit me to say, Gentlemen,  
with

with the boldness becoming an honest man, that I have not deserved it. It has been my chief pride to be a representative of the first city in the world, and I shall relinquish such an honour with much concern and mortification; but I will not flatter you in order to obtain a continuance of it. It is my duty to speak out, and act, as I ever have done, with openness and integrity. My abilities may not be equal to those of many other gentlemen whom you may choose to represent you, but I defy you to find any one who shall serve you with more zeal and attention than I have done,—a zeal and attention which, give me leave to say, does not deserve the degrading reception I have met with from you this day. But I am informed that I am more particularly accused of not regularly attending my duty in the Court of Aldermen, and elsewhere,

as one of your magistrates. In some degree I plead guilty to the charge; but I must beg of you to remember, that, during the winter, I am engaged in doing my duty as your representative in parliament; and, when I am obliged to attend the House of Commons, I cannot attend the Court of Aldermen; for no man can be in two places at one time. During the summer, gentlemen, I have of late been engaged in doing my duty as an officer in the militia, and thereby promoting to the utmost of my power that excellent, necessary, and constitutional establishment: and when I am engaged in attendance upon the militia, I cannot attend the Court of Aldermen. It has been told me also, that I have given offence to many of you by not canvassing your votes; I am sorry for it, because I  
respect

respect you too much, and love the constitution of my country too well, to infringe on the freedom of election, of which in these corrupt times this city still continues to give a most glorious example. If you recollect, gentlemen, I did not canvass you at the last general election. I have not canvassed you for the approaching one, and I will tell you honestly, I never will canvass you; you shall elect me without a canvass, or not at all. This is the defence of myself, which I offer to you, and, if it should not satisfy you, I must be content to thank you for past favors, and to assure you I shall still have a seat in the House of Commons, and I will continue to exert my best endeavours for your service, as I always have done."

The burst of applause that succeeded this spirited harangue was, if possible,

superior to the noisy dissatisfaction which preceded it; and Mr. B. left the hall amidst a tumult of approbation.

He was re-elected, and continued to receive the increasing favors of his fellow-citizens till his death.

As a magistrate, he was strict, but not severe, and laid it down as a maxim never to suffer any person, when brought before him, to sign his confession, declaring that the practice was barbarous and tyrannical: of this, the case of Rice, the broker, who was executed in April, 1763, is a shining example.

His immense fortune fixed him in a state of independance, and he was therefore generally in opposition to the Ministers and Secretaries of State. In parliament,  
his

his zeal carried him so far, as sometimes to speak upon things with which he was not thoroughly acquainted ; however, his views were looked upon to be upright, and his intensions sincere. His conduct in presenting two petitions to the throne, desiring a dissolution of the then Parliament, seems rather to have flowed from a conviction that a chief magistrate ought to act according to the sense of the inhabitants than from any opinion of his own that their presentation would be attended with the desired effect.

In 1758, he served the office of Sheriff, and gave such entertainments to the judges, serjeants, and learned in the law, at the end of every term, as astonished all who partook of them. In 1762, he was elected Lord Mayor of the City of London, notwithstanding his own earnest

desire to be excused; and, during his mayoralty, gave four entertainments, perhaps the most magnificent since the time of Henry VIII.

Charles V. Emperor of Germany, and Christian II. of Denmark, dined at Guildhall. Their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of York and Gloucester honoured him with their presence on Lord Mayor's day; and during his mayoralty his routs were elegant beyond description, one of which, it is said, cost him above 10,000*l*.

During his residence in Holland, he contracted an intimacy with a beautiful young girl, the daughter of a shopkeeper at Leyden, by whom he had a son. Upon the death of his father, he brought her over to England, and placed her in apartments

*pages of 1<sup>st</sup> edition*

BECKFORD.

79

ments suitable to his rank and fortune; and being obliged to go over to Jamaica to settle his affairs, where he remained two years, upon his return home with a design to marry his beloved girl, to his great mortification he found her with child by a mulatto boy, not then sixteen, whom he had left with her as a page. This so affected him, that his friends were afraid it would have cost him his life: he, however, provided handsomely for her, and sent her back to Holland. He had besides several other natural children, for all of whom he provided in a handsome manner.

He was a great encourager of such as had the care of the education of his children, and gave liberally to the ushers of the schools where they studied; and contributed also to every charitable founda-

tion for the instruction of youth within the Bills of Mortality.

In 1756, he married Mrs. March, relict of Francis March, Esq.

In his diet he was exceedingly moderate when by himself, notwithstanding the grandeur of his entertainments, to set off which no manner of expence was spared,

---

SIR JOHN BERNARD. *page 170*

Sir John Bernard was a distinguished patriot in the reigns of George the First and Second, and represented the City in many parliaments.

He was one of those whom Walpole could neither buy nor corrupt.—A statue was in gratitude erected to his memory upon the Royal Exchange.—He died immensely rich.

His



S<sup>R</sup> JOHN BERNARD.



His son died a few years since in Berkeley-Square, also immensely rich and *prophetic*. Whatever have been the failings of this latter gentleman, the neglect of little things could not be attributed to him; even at his father's funeral, he is known to have taken care of candle-ends.

His prophecy of his own death was accompanied with the same spirit of minute frugality. The fact was literally this :

Among the ordinary practices of his common living was the use of chocolate; he used it every morning. Eight and forty hours before his death, the bell was rung, and the house-keeper called for, to whom Mr. Bernard addressed himself, and directed her *not* to make chocolate for four days, as had been usual, but to diminish the quantity, and make enough for *two* mornings only. Before the third morning came, came also his death.

Sir

## SIR SAMUEL FLUDYER.

Sir Samuel Fludyer was a Blackwell-hall Factor of the first eminence. His origin was so low, as to be employed in attending the pack-horses, which were formerly used to bring cloth from the West country to London. By great industry, a spirit of enterprize, and good fortune, he acquired prodigious wealth, and arrived at great importance in the commercial world ; and, without remitting a most continued attention to the objects of this extensive commerce, he lived in all the taste and luxury of nobility, to which he had indeed by his second marriage allied himself.

Although, by some unexpected manœuvres against him, he was an unsuccessful candidate

candidate to represent the city of London, he was chosen in several Parliaments for the borough of Chippenham, in Wiltshire.

During his mayoralty, the King and Royal Family were entertained by the City at Guildhall with great magnificence, and the chair of the metropolis was supported with great splendor. An unfortunate moment of avarice however clouded his reputation, and is supposed to have shortened his life.

As the assignee of a bankrupt, the creditors were discontented not only with his conduct, but the means he had pursued to be appointed to that trust ; and, on a hearing of the business before Lord Camden, these discontents not only appeared to be well founded, but a discovery was also made

made of a contraband trade he had carried on in scarlet cloth, to the detriment of the East-India Company. The Lord Chancellor reprehended his conduct in the most severe terms, and decreed against him.— Sir Samuel, who was present in court, sunk as it were beneath the chastisement, and did not long survive it.

---

#### ALDERMAN BULL,

Being a leading man among the City-Dissenters, who were warmly attached to the cause of liberty in the person of Mr. Wilkes, became a zealous and liberal member of the well-known Society of the *Bill of Rights*.

This



M<sup>r</sup>. ALDERMAN BULL.



This circumstance, with repeated acts of friendship and support to the then favourite object of popular enthusiasm, procured him a seat among the Magistrates of London, raised him to the dignity of Lord Mayor, and the honorable service of representing his fellow-citizens in parliament. That he was the dupe of Mr. Wilkes is very generally believed; but, if any latent seeds of vanity were harboured in his mind, which only waited for an opportunity to burst forth into luxuriance, he cannot be said to have paid a very extravagant price for the harvest of honors which he reaped by the aid of his adopted Patriot.

It has been the pleasure or the wit of some, even of his own party, to hold the Alderman forth as a weak and silly character; nor has the very person, who first proposed him as an object for public honors,

nors, been guiltless of making him a subject of private ridicule.

In his professional capacity, he bore a fair and upright character ; as a common or chief Magistrate of London, he gave satisfaction to his fellow-citizens ; and the integrity of his representative-trust was established, in the most ample and public manner, by a re-election against powerful competitors. Men, whose lives have been passed at the merchant's desk, or in the warehouse, cannot be expected to possess a brilliance of talent, or the splendor of external qualifications : they have sufficient honour in the attainment of commercial knowledge, and exerting it with integrity and spirit.

Mr. Bull's parliamentary speech, however, on the Act for exporting Tea to  
America,





*John Sawbridge Esq<sup>r</sup>*  
**MEMBER for HITHE in KENT,**  
*chosen Alderman of London, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1769.*

America, by no means betrayed a deficiency of understanding ; it was delivered upon a subject of which, from his particular branch of trade, he was a perfect judge, and consisted of plain, commercial, but powerful arguments against some of the leading motives which Government had declared to be the foundation of the fatal measure he opposed.

---

JOHN SAWBRIDGE, Esq.

*Nil oriturum alius, nil ortum tale fatentes !*

This Gentleman was descended from one of the most honorable and antient families in Kent, whose ancestors frequently represented that county in parliament.

He

He inherited a good fortune, and very early in life captivated a lady with a fortune of 100,000*l*. This lady died in less than a twelvemonth, but such was her gratitude for the pleasures she had tasted, that she rewarded the short services of Mr. Sawbridge with the whole of her fortune.

Mr. Wilkes introduced this Gentleman into the *practice* of politics, and in the *theory* he had very early made a rapid progress, under the auspices of *Mrs. Macauley*, afterwards *Mrs. Graham*.

He was Sheriff in 1768, in conjunction with the late James Townshend, Esq.

In defiance of a threat of a Bill of Pains and Penalties held out by Government, he persevered in his duty, and returned Mr. Wilkes to parliament five successive times,  
and

and in defiance too of a resolution of the House of Commons, since declared illegal. He brought in a Bill to repeal the Septennial Bill of George I. and persevered in moving the same Bill in the House every year of his life.

A school-friendship introduced him to the notice of Lord Chatham, through whom he was brought into Parliament, and their mutual friendship reflected honour on each other. The Peer aided by his influence one who wanted his patronage, and the party obliged, repaid it by proper, but independent exertions of gratitude and genius.

He was the unshaken advocate of parliamentary reform, and the sworn enemy to corruption—a man of talents, a man of education, and a *useful* speaker.

He was an Alderman of the Ward of Langbourne, by whom he was much esteemed ; was never in any place, was steady in his principles, inviolable in his friendship, and consistent in his politics ; he was a staunch Whig.

In private life he was benevolent, hospitable, and sincere. He possessed all the manners and accomplishments of the gentleman and man of fashion:—Mr. Sawbridge died in 1794.

ALDER-

## ALDERMAN CALVERT.

This Gentleman was made an Alderman in the year ——. The following story is related of him.

Mr. Calvert, like the generality of brewers, had a number of public-houses belonging to him; one of these, in a low neighbourhood, which he had let on a very trivial consideration, at length encreased so high in its demands for his *intire*, that the Alderman amazed at the consumption, as he seldom heard of any company being seen there in the day-time, called upon the landlord, expressing his surprize at the circumstance, no person being seen in the house in the day-time. The landlord told his Worship, that if he would call in the evening, his curiosity

G 2

should

should be amply gratified, but added, that if the quality of his beer was not bettered, he might lose some of his principal customers. The Alderman attended, and the better to make his observation, was prevailed on by the landlord to put on one of *his* old great coats, a slouched hat, &c. He was then, with some apology by the former, introduced into a back room, nearly filled with the halt, the lame, and the blind, who had lost all their infirmities in the plenitude of his porter. After the mutual relations of their day's adventures, songs, &c. it was proposed, as usual, to one of the oldest of them, who acted as President, to name the supper, when, whether he had not before noticed the new guest or not, fixing his eye on Mr. Calvert, he exclaimed, "For supper to night—I think we must have *an alderman hung in chains!*" While  
this

this was acceded to by the whole company, the Alderman, thinking he was discovered, and that they meant to use him ill, made a precipitate retreat out of the room, and communicated with much embarrassment, his suspicion to the landlord; his apprehension however soon subsided, as before the host could give him an explanation, he was called backwards to take orders for supper, when, without taking any notice to the worthy brewer, he stepped to a poulterer's in the neighbourhood, and soon returned with a fine turkey, and a link of pork sausages, which presenting to his guest, he assured him when spitted with the link of sausages to be roasted, was the alderman meant by the company to be hung in chains for supper.—The adventure so well pleased the brewer, that the melioration of the beer was immediately attended to.

## ALDERMAN CLARKE

Was bred and practiced as an attorney.

He was Lord Mayor in 1785.

He married a Miss Pistor, the daughter of a woollen-draper at Aldersgate, with whom he got a handsome fortune.

He opposed Sir Watkin Lewes as a candidate for the city, in which unsuccessful contest he spent a very considerable sum of money; in consequence of which the city promised him the Chamberlainship, and they gave it him accordingly on the death of Mr. Wilkes.

WILLIAM

## WILLIAM LEE, Esq.

Was a native of America, brother to Dr. Arthur Lee, who came over from the first Congress to this country with the celebrated petition, presented at the bar of the House of Commons by him and Mr. Penn in 1774.

He served the office of Sheriff in conjunction with Stephen Sayer, and was elected Alderman for Aldgate-Ward the same year.

He retired to America in 1778 with Alderman Oliver.

He was a man of talents and integrity.

## ALDERMAN OLIVER

Was a man of great abilities and great virtue. He succeeded Mr. Beckford as Alderman and Member of Parliament, and was committed to the Tower with Alderman Crosby.

He resigned his gown in 1778, and went to America, where he died in 1784.

---

EVAN PUGH, Esq.

Originally a porter, and afterwards a partner in the house of the late Alderman Been, a soap-boiler, by whom he was left trustee to his only son, whom he attempted  
to



*The Right Hon.<sup>ble</sup> Brays Crosby Esq.<sup>r</sup> Lord Mayor,  
and Rich. Oliver Esq.<sup>r</sup> Alderman of London.*



*City Bio. - p. 96*

to defraud of his property, but he was afterwards compelled by the Court of Chancery to restore it.

He was chosen an Alderman in 1779, and Sheriff with Mr. White in 1780, and was a bankrupt in 1782.

He was appointed *coal-metre* in 1784, a sinecure place worth 1200l. per annum. Alderman HART and he held the place in conjunction, who had also been a bankrupt, on condition they should both resign their Alderman's gowns, which they did.

JOHN

## JOHN WILKES

Is by some supposed to have been descended by the father's side from Colonel Wilkes, a man of some celebrity during the civil wars, who sided with the Parliament against Charles the First; but that is not the fact; he was the son of Mr. *Israel* Wilkes, a distiller, who was the son of another *Israel* Wilkes, a distiller, who was the son of a third *Israel* Wilkes. The great grandfather, grandfather, and son, were all alive at the same time, and all flourishing tradesmen.

His mother was a Dissenter, and he himself is reported to have been educated in dissenting principles, both civil and religious. From the time of his first launching into public life, he uniformly professed him-

himself attached to the cause of freedom. His address to the electors of Berwick, for which place he became a candidate in 1754, breathes a noble spirit of independence. He received a considerable part of his education abroad, at Leyden, or Utrecht; and a decisive proof of the reputation he had acquired at that period, was given by that eminent metaphysician, Mr. Andrew Baxter, dedicating to him his *Enquiry into the Nature of the Human Soul*.

Soon after finishing his education, he returned to England, and married Miss Mead, a lady of large fortune, a relation of the great Dr. Mead.

By this lady, from whom he afterwards separated, Mr. Wilkes had an amiable and accomplished daughter, still alive.

The

The severity of reprehension with which he treated the Scotch nation, begot him many enemies among the natives of the northern parts of the island; Dunn, who seems to have been a maniac, wished to bereave him of his life by assassination, and Forbes, an officer, by single combat. When his papers were seized, a letter from his friend, the late Earl Temple, was found, in which the bitterness of his enmity to the North Britons was censured.

This same nobleman supported Mr. Wilkes during his contest with government.

Mr. Wilkes's courage was indisputable; he fought a duel with Mr. Martin, and another with Lord Talbot, in both of which

which he conducted himself with great spirit.

He became an author in 1762, and his first publication was entitled, "Observations on the Papers relative to the Rupture with Spain."

In the same year he became the editor of the North Briton, which, with the consequent prosecution respecting general warrants, and the affair of the Middlesex election, are in universal recollection.

His cause was supported by the best and ablest men in the kingdom; his debts were more than once paid by his friends, who also started him as a candidate for the lucrative office of Chamberlain of the City of London. Mr. Hopkins, his opponent, however prevailed, and an annual

con-

contest took place until his death, which occurred in 1779, since which period Mr. Wilkes occupied that situation for the remainder of his life.

During the whole of the American war, he was a strenuous opposer of Lord North's administration. No sooner was the Noble Lord hunted out of office, than Mr. Wilkes seized that opportunity of procuring justice to the public and to himself, respecting the Middlesex election. The day this scandalous decision was rescinded from the Journals of the House of Commons seems to have been the last of his political career.

In his person, Mr. Wilkes was tall, agile, and very thin. His complexion was sallow, and he had an unfortunate cast of his eyes, that rendered his face particularly  
liable

liable to be caricatured, yet he was (though certainly not vain) known to entertain ideas of his personal beauty, particularly of countenance; nor is he the only instance how little we know ourselves, either externally or internally. Dunning also was known to regard his own person, Batavian as it was, as a model of elegance. The ministry of that day were so sensible of the advantages to be derived from this species of ridicule, that Hogarth was actually bought off from the popular party, and induced to employ his graver in satirizing his former friends.

Mr. Wilkes was a high-bred man, and possessed elegant and engaging manners, and was an intimate with many of the most distinguished personages of the kingdom.

His

His conduct as a magistrate was not only unexceptionable, but spirited and exemplary; and as a guardian to the city youth, he has not been excelled by any of his predecessors.

He was accused of having been extremely dilatory in the production of the city-accounts, and was certainly by no means inattentive to the emoluments of office.

As an author, he possessed the singular merit of writing *to*, and *for*, the people. His success was proportionate, and he actually *wrote down* one administration. His merits can best be appreciated by the benefits he conferred on his country. It was he who first taught the public to consider the "*King's Speech*" as the mere fabrication of his ministers, and as such,  
proper

proper to be commented on, applauded, or treated with contempt. By his bold and determined conduct, in the case of the City Printers, he annihilated the power of commitment assumed by the Speaker's warrant, and rendered the jurisdiction of the Serjeant at Arms subject to the controul of a constable. He punished despotic Secretaries of State, by holding them up to public scorn, abolished general warrants, and obliged even Lord Mansfield to declare them illegal. But this was not all; he contributed to render *an Englishman's house his castle*, for it is to him we are indebted for the benefit of having our papers considered as sacred, in all cases short of high treason.

It is greatly to be lamented that his History of England, from the revolution to the elevation of the Brunswick line to

H

the

the throne, was never finished ; it would have been full of political anecdotes, and contained the greatest number of instances of the contrasted effects of human credit and depression. In the hour of prosperity Mr. Wilkes was not elated, and in those of adversity he was perfectly composed ; he was fonder of wit than of his friend, full of the knowledge of man, full of reading, and the most pleasant companion.

Of the late Lord Chatham and Mr. Beckford he would often speak with ironical satire.

He was a good judge of the means of gaining popularity, and yet was never a dupe to it. He ultimately secured the County of Middlesex, and was chosen Chamberlain of the City of London, as a reward for his happy efforts to serve and  
please

please the people; though at several junctures he was near falling to the ground.

Mr. R. Oliver and Mr. Williams too were zealous in his service; but with the former he had at last a severe and implacable quarrel, which no event was ever capable of removing;—from the effect of this, a motion was made to dissolve the Bill of Rights Society, and the negative was carried by a majority of one only; from that time, a division of his friends had almost undone him, but he found Alderman Bull a steady friend, who assisted him with great liberality, until a quarrel took place through the intrigue of Mr. Reynolds the Attorney, and they at last did not speak to each other.

At a City-meeting for convivial purposes, at which Sir Watkin Lewes assisted, Sir Watkin, after receiving many cuts from the keen weapon of Johnny's satire, complained that he was more particularly severe upon him than any other, and liked nothing so well as making him his *butt*. "How can you say so, my dear Sir Watkin, when you know well I never was fond of an *empty butt*."

After the loss of Mr. Bull, he made no new friend, but rather became a deep investigator of the political movements which drew the attention of the public, and was generally very reserved of his opinion, till he delivered it publicly. Without the decided sense of the people, he was a friend to Mr. Pitt, and an enemy to Mr. Fox, never forgetting the violent oppo-

opposition of that gentleman when a youth, to the Middlesex contest.

He died in the 71st year of his age, having been born October 17, 1727, O. S. His body was interred in the vault in Grosvenor-Chapel, South Audley-Street. Eight labouring men, dressed in new black clothes, carried him to his grave.

---

#### ANECDOTES OF MR. WILKES.

1. Mr. Wilkes usually wrote his satire against Lord Bute's ministry (himself sitting in his bed) upon a desk, *à la posterior*: this *portatif* desk, Wilkes used to say jocularly, his *mistress* would not have parted with for 50,000*l.* however cheap

she might have mortgaged it, *or let it out to hire*. Wilkes performed every act of debauchery, political and female, with much pleasantry and much *caution*. He once took the opinion of counsel (the late Sir Fletcher Norton) how he should avoid an action for *seduction*, if he took a certain girl from her father into keeping. A lawyer who cannot advise a client how to *evade* a law, as well as to secure himself *by* the law, has but half-learnt his profession. Sir Fletcher, who knew both, advised Wilkes to “take the girl as an upper servant, and give her *double* wages,—extra wages denoting that *something more than common* services were expected to be performed by her.” Wilkes took the hint, and actually kept his *fille de joie* and chamber-maid at *twenty* pounds per annum, at the same time anathematising the whole profession,—swearing by his

his Goddess VENUS, that the name of a *lawyer* was but another for a *scoundrel*.

2. Mr. Wilkes going to Dolly's chop-house, in Paternoster-row, with a friend, in order to observe the humours of the place, accidentally seated himself near a rich and purse-proud citizen, who almost stunned him with roaring for his *stake*, as he called it. Mr. Wilkes, in the mean time, asking him some common question, received a very brutal answer: the steak coming at that instant, Mr. Wilkes turned to his friend, saying, "see the difference between the *City* and the *Bear-garden*; in the latter the *bear* is brought to the *stake*, but here the *steak* is brought to the *bear*."

3. The same gentleman, during the prosecution carried on against him by

Administration, being in France, and at Court, Madame Pompadour addressed him thus:—" You Englishmen are fine fellows; pray how far may a man go in his abuse of the Royal Family among you?"—" I do not at present know, (replied he drily,) *but I am trying.*"

SIR

## SIR THOMAS HALIFAX.

During the very severe winter of 1789, a few of the opulent inhabitants of Enfield proposed waiting on the parishioners to collect a sum of money to be distributed among the poorer class of the parish, and among others in their circuits, they called at the house of the late SIR THOMAS HALIFAX. He received them at his gate in person, and asked them the cause of their visit, the nature of which they explained, and after some conversation, without being able to obtain any thing one of them observed, *That he who giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord.* This was the wretch's answer, *I don't chuse to give such long credit,* and suffered them to depart without giving them a farthing;—he died in a very few weeks after.

ALDER-

## ALDERMAN WOOLRIDGE.

Alderman Woolridge is the only instance of an Alderman having been expelled the Court of Aldermen.

He offered himself a candidate for the town of Abingdon in 1780, in opposition to John Mayor, Esquire, but lost his election; he went so far as to petition the House of Commons, but abandoned the petition when it came before the Committee, having neither counsel, attorney, or evidence. The Committee made a special report of this case, and *resolved* that he should pay all costs. Upon this occasion it was, that an act was made—that in cases where a petition should be voted frivolous and vexatious, the petitioner should pay all costs.

He

He was at one period regarded as a mouth-piece to the City, and if he had possessed capacity equal to his effrontery, it is probable he would have made a considerable figure. Impudence made him, and caused him to be unmade, an Alderman; but he had no talents beyond those that commonly fall to the lot of Aldermen.

JOHN

## JOHN SYLVESTER, Esq.

*Common Serjeant,*

Is the son of a physician at Bath; he was educated at Mr. Reeve's Academy, in Bishopsgate-street, and like his colleague in office, Mr. ROSE, married a fortune, and got far more by the *apron* than the *gown*.

He is little known at the Bar out of the Old Bailey, where however his practice has been considerable. The Prisoners' Calendar he distinguishes by the elegant and humane appellation of *a Bill of Fare*. He is said to have made much money by his practice; if so, he has derived it from the groans of the gallows.

Vulgar

Vulgar and ineloquent, he knows that which is soon learned,—*Crown-practice*; and that he does know *any thing* is saying a great deal, for no person who hears him speak or converse would imagine it.

---

### SIR BENJAMIN TIBBS.

This Gentleman was originally a *shoe-black*, and exercised his *vocation* at the Golden Cross, Charing Cross.

He married Mr. Alderman Burnell's daughter, and at his decease possessed his fortune; he afterwards kept the Standard Tavern in Leicester Fields, where he acquired a great deal of money.

He was sheriff in 1793.

SER-

**SERJEANT GLYNN.**

An able advocate, and a great and upright constitutional lawyer,—the decided opponent of all the arbitrary measures of Lords Bute, Grenville, Grafton, and North.

He was chosen Recorder in 1770; on the resignation of Mr. Eyre, and a more able Recorder the city never boasted.

In 1768 he was chosen Member for Middlesex jointly with Mr. Wilkes, which he continued to represent till his death.

**H. KITCHEN,**

*Designed & Engraved for the Political Register.*



JOHN GLYN Esq<sup>r</sup>. Member of Parliament for MIDDLESEX.



## H. KITCHEN, Esq.

Was Sheriff with Alderman Burnell in 1789.

He was originally a leather-cutter in Drury-lane, in which he made a good fortune.

Alderman Sainsbury asked his consent to marry one of his daughters, a beautiful and accomplished young lady. Mr. K.'s answer was, "that he would consult his wife." The wife objected to the disparity of years, the Alderman being somewhat advanced. "*I can however do her business for ten years to come,*" replied the Alderman. "*May be so, (replied the lady,) but who is to do it for the next ten years, Mr. Alderman?*"

SIR

## SIR JAMES SANDERSON, BART.

Was born at York in 1741, of worthy though humble parents. His father was a grocer, who dying young, left his business to be carried on by his widow, a truly excellent woman, for the benefit of their only son, when he should arrive at a proper age to undertake the management of it himself.

To fit him for business, he was sent to Mr. Golding, an eminent hop-merchant in London, whose regard for his *protégé* terminated only with his life. After some years spent with Mr. Golding, he returned to York, with a view of carrying on the trade left him by his father; but, finding it contracted, and barely sufficient to support his mother and sisters, he left it to them,

them, with an equal distribution of his little fortune, (100l.) and with that in his trunk took his leave of them, and returned to his friend Mr. Golding in London, who soon after settled him in a connection with Mr. Hunter, a hop-merchant, of eminence, from whom Sir James experienced the most affectionate attention and support; and in return he devoted himself to the interest of his benefactor.

An attachment to Miss Judd, whose father was of the same business, soon broke off this connection, and apparently much to the dissatisfaction of Mr. Hunter; but his friendship was firm and inviolable, his confidence unshaken; and he left Sir James his executor.

To his union with the Judd family, with whom he lived and died in perfect  
I friend-

friendship, he always gratefully acknowledged the foundation of his fortune, the source of his energies, and the reward of his exertions; for his father-in-law, by a liberal fortune with his daughter, generously placed at the disposal of her husband, redoubled his industry, which, aided by a rigid and unremitting attention, crowned his labour with success.

Deprived of a family by the early deaths of his children, and secretly despairing of his own health, he wished to dedicate the remaining part of his life to the service of the public. In this disposition he was encouraged by the solicitations of his neighbours to accept the Alderman's gown of the Ward in which he lived, upon the resignation of Mr. Woolridge in the year 1783.

He

He was Sheriff in 1786, Lord Mayor in 1792, and the year following was created a Baronet for his services during his mayoralty.

His first wife died in his mayoralty, and in the year 1796, during the mayoralty of Alderman Skinner, he was married to one of the Alderman's daughters, who survives him.

## MATTHEW BLOXAM, Esq.

Is the son of a school-master at Ever-sham, in Worcestershire. Like his partner, *Sir James Sanderson*, he married an old maid with a good fortune.

He was chosen Sheriff with Mr. *Fenn* in 1788, and great praise is due to him for his attempt (though it proved a fruitless one) to reform the scandalous abuses practised by Sheriffs' officers. On entering his Shrievalty he stood *singly* to represent, in a most spirited memorial, to the great law officers, the abuses committed in arrests, and uniformly stood forth the friend and advocate of the unfortunate debtor.

He was a candidate for Maidstone in 1789, where he was elected in opposition  
to

to *George Byng, Esq*; the present member for Middlesex, and has continued its representative to the present day.

Meeting with a strong opposition at the last general election from *Claude Scott, Esq*; the Contractor, he despaired of success, and offered himself for the several boroughs of *Preston, Reading, and Ilchester*; but the failure of *Clement Taylor, Esq*; at Maidstone, gave him the opportunity of taking his former seat. Mr. *Bloxam*, in consequence of this unexpected success, sent *Sir John Eamer* and *Martindale the Gambler* to stand on his supposed interest at Ilchester, in opposition to *Sir Robert Clayton, and William Dickinson, Esq*; the nominees of *Mr. Troward*, the Attorney, (proprietor of the borough;) but they obtained only *sixteen* votes out of *one hundred and sixty-three*.

## STEPHEN SAYER, Esq.

Mr. Stephen Sayer is the son of a miller in New York, a very poor man.

He was put apprentice to Lewes and Co. a very considerable mercantile house in New York ; but, being in his early life too lively for the counting-house, he joined the army before Quebec as a volunteer in the year 1759, and there so much distinguished himself, that he received a commission in the British service\*.

He

\* Stephen being a lad of some parts, his father strained a point to give him a little education, which he did till he could afford it no longer. During the last war before the American revolution, as his father was on his way back bringing Stephen from  
his

He afterwards encountered a variety of fortune, till he married a daughter of Judge Noel, with a fortune of 20,000*l.* and became Sheriff of London in 1772.

He was a partner in the banking-house of Pardon and Co. but, in consequence of his affair with Richardson on a charge of Treason, there was a run upon the house which occasioned its stopping.

Since that period he has been thrown about the world in many various, and some of them awkward situations, having spent

his College at Connecticut, he accidentally met an opulent farmer with his son, grievously lamenting at not being able to find a substitute for him (he having been ballotted to serve during the campaign) and Stephen, tempted by a *douceur* of 100*l.* eased the father's mind, and gallantly went in his place.

no inconsiderable time in the King's Bench prison.

Report states that he is lately married to a lady of fortune, and settled at Burderton, a little town within five miles of Philadelphia.

Mr. Sayer must be now near 60 years of age ; he was always distinguished as a man of gallantry, and the handsomest man of his day. The narrative of his amours and intrigues of gallantry, it has been said, would fill a volume.

ALDER.

## ALDERMAN BURNELL

Was originally a journeyman-bricklayer, and actually worked at his trade till he was made Sheriff in 1789.

Wilkes, at some city-feast, seeing him unable to manage his *knife* properly in the simple operation of cutting a pudding, set the table in a roar by telling him he had better take the *trowel* to it.

He was very rich and very penurious.

He had only one son, whom he bred a bricklayer, and compelled to work at his trade like a common man. This son was killed on the spot by a fall from a scaffold on which he was at work. When the father was told of it, his reply was, "*Have*  
*you*

*you put another in his place? Has any body taken care of his watch and money?" Nevertheless no man did more honor to the several municipal situations of the city than the character in question.*

---

**JAMES FENN, Esq.**

Was a fishmonger and kept a public house, in which joint trade he made a capital fortune.

He was Sheriff with Mr. Bloxam in 1788.

His daughter is married to Sir John Rose, the present Recorder of London.

SIR

## SIR BERNARD TURNER

Was originally an officer in the Marines, afterwards a sugar-baker on Paul's Wharf.

He was chosen Alderman of the Cordwainer's Ward in the year 1781, on the death of Alderman Hayley, and was elected Sheriff of the City of London and County of Middlesex in 1784.

His conduct as a magistrate and a man gave universal satisfaction to his fellow citizens, and the electors of Southwark had so high an opinion of his integrity, that in 1783 they elected him a member for that borough without opposition.

He died much regretted in 1784, in the 42d year of his age. The accident  
which

which occasioned his death, was owing to his horse taking fright and crossing the road upon a post chaise coming from Tottenham. One of the shafts pierced the flesh of his thigh, laid bare the bone, and broke his leg just below the knee.

He left a large family of children, and is said to have died in insolvent circumstances.

The following inscription was a short time since put on his tomb at Henfield, in Hertfordshire:—

“ To the memory of Sir Bernard Tur-  
“ ner, Knt. Alderman and Sheriff of Lon-  
“ don and Middlesex; Major of the Hon.  
“ Artillery Company, and Member of  
“ Parliament for the Borough of South-  
“ wark; who signalized his early years in  
“ the

“ the naval service of his country, and  
“ became eminently distinguished in so-  
“ cial civil life. Unremitted activity and  
“ undaunted courage, unshaken integrity,  
“ and firmness as a magistratè, spirited  
“ support of ardor and decency in the  
“ execution of justice, humane attention  
“ to the distresses of the wretched, and  
“ disinterested ardour for the public good,  
“ merited and advanced him to that dig-  
“ nity and those important stations to  
“ which his sovereign and fellow-citizens  
“ had raised him. The Artillery Com-  
“ pany having attended their much la-  
“ mented officer and friend here to this  
“ grave, dedicated this inscription.”

“ He died by a fall from his horse, the  
“ 15th of June, 1784, aged 42.”

On

On the west end of the monument is the following inscription:—

“ As a memorial of love and attach-  
“ ment to a most deserving and beloved  
“ wife, this tomb was erected by Bernard  
“ Turner, Commanding Officer of the  
“ London Military Foot Association, du-  
“ ring the memorable riots in June, 1780,  
“ Major of the Hon. Artillery Company,  
“ and Alderman of the City of London.”

SAMUEL.

## SAMUEL PLUMBE, Esq.

*Lord Mayor in 1779.*

He possessed nearly as much avarice as old Elves, or the son of Bernard.

In his mayoralty he made use of the long-tubed fumigating bellows of his gardener to blow out the candles in the ball-room at the Mansion-house, when he thought the young folks had had dancing enough, nor could the entreaties of his only daughter prevent this ludicrous exposition. His answer, however, was paternal, *Ant it all for to make you good weight?*

SIR

## SIR BENJAMIN HAMMET

Is the son of a barber at Taunton, in Somersetshire, and was educated at the charity-school in that town; he was afterwards a footman in the family of the late Mr. Hopkins, commonly called *Vulture Hopkins*, the noted usurer.

He married his mistress's sister, a daughter of the late Sir James Esdaile, who advanced him money to erect the buildings in the Minories, called America-square, the Circus, &c. and he afterwards became a partner in Sir James's banking-house.

He offered himself a candidate for the Alderman's gown in 1770, in opposition to Sir Watkin Lewes, when he failed, but  
succeeded

succeeded in 1784, served the office of Sheriff the succeeding year with Alderman Curtis, and, having been chosen Lord Mayor in 1797, paid the fine to be excused serving the office.

In 1798 he resigned his gown, and is now employed at his coal-mines in Cardiganshire\*.

#### Rudeness

\* During the late *war*, or, as a good courtier would still say, *the rebellion* in America, upon the first appointment of Lord Howe, and his brother Sir William to commands, it was usual to drink their healths under the term *Adelphi*, which is very nearly Greek for—The Brothers. This toast being given at the table of Mr. Benjamin Hammet, whose great abilities had not then added the *SIR before*, or the *M. P. after* his name, the worthy Banker, during the intervals of a most intelligent laugh, exclaimed, “ Well—well—well—I have built as much as most

Rudeness, ignorance, and impudence, are frequently more valuable in the bustle of life than the most amiable qualities.

men—I intend to build a street in my native town Taunton, to be called *Hammet-street*—I know all the eminent builders in England, but never did I hear a building given as a toast before: however, gentlemen, here goes—The Adelphi—and I heartily wish the ADAMS success with it.” The words being all the same in the Greek, it seems probable Sir Benjamin may have taken a lesson in that language from Alderman Curtis.

ALDER-

## ALDERMAN KENNETT.

He was a waiter\* at a tavern in *Pall Mall*, a wine-merchant at *Westminster*, was chosen an Alderman in 1773, Sheriff in 1775, and Lord Mayor in 1780.

He was, among the ministerial Aldermen, passed over for Mayor, during the ten years of Wilkes's popularity. On the

\* During the riots in 1780, he was summoned to attend the Privy Council, upon which occasion some difficulty arose about the mode of introducing him; when Lord NORTH facetiously observed, that if any of their Lordships *would ring the bell*, he would come up *of course*. On being introduced and asked, why he had not better preserved the peace of the city by calling upon the Militia, his answer was, *that* he was seized with such a fit of *temerity*, that he did not know what to do.

city returning to the old mode of choosing Mayors by rotation, he was elected.

His *bold* and *intrepid* conduct, and its consequences during the riots, are in every one's recollection.

He was the author of the ridiculous report at the time, that the late Earl of *Effingham* was killed among the rioters shot in Fleet Market; he related it at a common-council dinner, and gave the name of Lord Amherst as his author. Lord Effingham waited upon Lord Amherst, who denied having given the Lord Mayor any authority for such a story, and, to shew the improbability of his having done so, instanced his having been present at a meeting of the Privy Council, when the thanks of that board were unanimously voted to his Lordship, for having

so warmly interested himself as a Magistrate at Sheffield, during the riots in London, in order to prevent similar outrages there.

Upon this Lord Effingham ordered an action of *Scand. Mag.* to be brought against Kennett, who, however, died before it came to trial.

---

### THOMAS BAKER, Esq.

Was Sheriff in 1790, to which office he was certainly *not* promoted for his learning, for report says he can *neither read nor write*, which is frequently of great *negative advantage*, for much ill often comes of it.—He was a horse-dealer in Smithfield.

## JAMES TOWNSEND, Esq.

He was educated at Cambridge, a man of genius, and a tolerable good speaker.

He was a steady adherent to the Marquis of Lansdowne, and represented his Lordship's borough of Calne, in Wiltshire, during many parliaments.

This restless magistrate formerly exerted the most active, continual, and angry endeavours in favor of measures the most obnoxious to government, and was a decided opponent of Lord North's administrations, although he owed his fortune to the generosity of the crown, who restored him the property which had been forfeited to it.

His

His quarrel with Mr. Wilkes made him for a short time unpopular, but a general belief in his integrity, and the possession of useful talents, re-established him in favour with the City, whose interest, it must be confessed, he assiduously studied and promoted.

He formed an admirable plan for regulating the *police* of the city of London and county of Middlesex, the leading feature of which was, that the officers should be chosen by the inhabitants *only*, and which was probably the *only* cause of its rejection.

## SIR JOHN W. ROSE, KNT.

*The present Recorder,*

Is the son of an apothecary at Putney ;  
he was made Recorder in 1782, on the  
resignation of Serjeant *Adair*.

He is little known at the Bar, except as  
Recorder.

He married a daughter of Alderman  
Fenn, with whom he had a large fortune.

---

ALDERMAN WRIGHT

Was a servant in the warehouse of which  
he afterwards became master, — a sta-  
tioner's in Abchurch-lane.

He

He was chosen an Alderman in 1779, was Sheriff in 1780, and Mayor in 1786. He acquired a fortune of 400,000l. and died last year.

---

### ALDERMAN GILL

Was also a servant in the same house, and acquired an immense fortune, entirely by his own industry. He began business with Alderman Wright as a stationer, and married his sister. They lived sixty years in partnership together, without having ever in any shape disagreed.

He also died last year, and his son was married to a daughter of Lord Wigtown.

SER.

## SERJEANT ADAIR

Was the son of an Irish linen-factor ;  
he was of St. John's College, Cambridge.

This gentleman's *political* and *professional* life is in every one's recollection as a violent *opponent*, till he *apostacised* with the *Duke of Portland*, when he supported the whole of those measures he had before reprobated.

The *Irish Chancellorship* was said to have been the object of his ambition, which, however, he died without attaining\*. He owed much of his success in life to that ardent zeal and impetuous fervor with which, at the first dawning

\* He died suddenly.

of Mr. Wilkes's popularity, he espoused the patriotic cause, and it was principally to his political conduct that he stood indebted for the rank and importance he held in the scale of public characters.

Although Mr. Adair's reception at the Bar was far from being discouraging, yet was there, at his outset, no great expectation of his rising to the eminence he ultimately attained in the profession. The active zeal with which he entered into the political contests of the times, rendered him popular, and his patriotism, aided by his profession, very suddenly pushed him into rank and business. Next to the county of Middlesex the city of London was, at the time, alluded to the great theatre of political controversy, and Mr. Adair was frequently called from haranguing the freeholders of Middlesex to

to the duties of his professional character, in order to combat the cavils of the then Recorder, against the re-election of Alderman Beckford to the Mayoralty, who was strongly opposed by the Court interest. It had been insisted that the same person could not twice fill the office of Mayor of the City of London. Mr. Adair, in conjunction with his coadjutor, Mr. *Serjeant Glynn*, maintained the opposite opinion, and his success in the confirmation of it contributed not a little to bring him forward on the canvas of public life.

In 1779, on the death of Mr. *Serjeant Glynn*, he succeeded him as *Recorder*, the duties of which important\* office he discharged

\* The inherent rights of the Livery of London to return whom they please to be their Mayors, Sheriffs, Bridge-

charged with ability and integrity—his abilities in office were highly respectable. After displaying great learning, acuteness, and judgment, in the trial of criminals, his *humanity* was not less obvious in passing sentence upon them. In those awful moments, when the doom of death hung suspended on his lips, his language bore the marks of the most sympathetic feel-

Bridgemasters, and Auditors, is not made void by disuse or custom ; they re-elected Mr. Beckford to be their Lord Mayor, though the custom had prevailed for the Mayor to go out every year, and another to be chosen, for near a century. The first Lord Mayor who was re-elected was Sir Thomas Pilkington, in the year 1690. In the case of Beckford, the Recorder and Common Serjeant gave their opinion he was not eligible ; but in the present case of re-electing their Auditors, the Court themselves made a precedent, by letting him be chosen last year, contrary to the custom.

ing,

ing, and the sentence he pronounced was always received with the most decorous solemnity and forcible impression.

Mr. Adair resigned his office, however, in 1782, to Mr. Rose. Perhaps this conduct and opinions in the *regency* business might have had some share in that event.

He was first brought into parliament by Sir James Lowther.

Mr. Adair was no disciple of Lord Chesterfield, and however well he might have stood with the *Ladies* in general, could certainly boast no favors from the *Graces*; his action was awkward, and his voice better suited to a rookery than a senate. His talents, however, were strong, improved by labor, and sharpened by practice; he was a correct methodical and plausible





MR. DEPUTY BIRCH.

*Published by B. Crosby, N<sup>o</sup>. 24, Stationers Court, Sep<sup>r</sup>. 1, 1795.*

plausible speaker, possessing a ready but not a rapid fluency.—A good lawyer he certainly was.

He was one of the leading members of the society at the Feather's Tavern for abolishing subscription to the thirty-nine Articles, and a member of the Essex-street Unitarian Congregation to his death.

---

#### DEPUTY BIRCH.

He is the only son of Mr. Samuel Birch, the Pastry-cook of that name in Cornhill, with whom he is in partnership.

He early in life married a niece of Dr. James Fordyce, a clergyman, who was offended at the alliance, and entered into a newspaper-controversy with his new kinsman,

kinsman, in which he addressed him by the name of *Mr. Pattypan*.

The Royal Ear being particularly tickled by one of the City addresses, and enquiry having been made for the author, Mr. Deputy Birch was named, "a good boy, a good boy," said his Majesty, "I think he writes as well as any body." This intoxicated poor BIRCH, who finding that the *farces* he is eternally scribbling are not so well relished as his *puff-paste*, now seriously means, it is said, to continue HUME's History of England.

He may be considered in four points of view :

1. As a city-orator.
2. As a dramatic author.
3. As a moral writer.
4. As a poet and a pastry-cook.

And

And the less is said upon all of them (except the pastry, which is generally good) the more pleasing it will probably be to Mr. Deputy Birch; however, *once* an author and *always* an author, therefore as this gentleman *will* write, we advise him to prepare a new edition of the *Complete Confectioner*, or an Original Essay on the Art of making Pastry, and every one must then say of him, that he has it all *at his finger's ends*.

---

H. CHRISTIAN COMBE, Esq.

*The present Lord Mayor.*

This gentleman's father was an eminent attorney at Andover, in Hampshire, possessing an estate of 500l. a year, to which his eld-

L

est

est son, the present Harvey C. Combe, succeeded. There were two other sons also, Boyce Combe, late a Captain in the 55th regiment, who served with reputation in America, and who is now an Army Agent and Insurance Broker in London; James Combe, a young man of great hopes, Captain in the 24th regiment of foot, and who was killed this war, fighting for his country, in the West Indies.

The present Lord Mayor served his apprenticeship to his uncle, the late Boyce Trees, Esq; a corn-factor, to whose estate he succeeded, and carried on the business, of which he is said to have made above 2000l. a year. His great knowledge of grain suggested the idea of becoming a brewer; accordingly he formed a partnership with Mr. Delafield, his brother-in-law,  
(who

(who had been in Whitbread's house) and Mr. George Shum. The extensive premises in Store-street, Tottenham-court-road, and Cross-street, Long Acre, belonging to the brewery of Gyfford and Co. was purchased, and business commenced under the firm of Shum, Combe, and Delafield, but the old name of Gyfford and Co. is still preserved, and is now one of the most considerable breweries in London.

His Majesty was pleased to sign Mr. Combe's commission as Captain Commandant of the Aldgate Volunteers, and in this, as in every other instance, Mr. Combe's character was seen, for he would not be content with knowing any thing by halves, but with infinite attention, care, and at a considerable expence, had himself instructed in his duty as an officer, that he might be able, if called

upon, to discharge, with propriety, the honourable trust reposed in him.

Mr. Combe is a member of all the fashionable clubs, and lives in habits of intimacy with some of the first characters this country can boast; he sees of course, a great deal of company, but his hospitality is under the direction of a well-regulated œconomy.

Early in life Mr. Combe married his cousin, the amiable Kitty Trees, by whom he has ten children, the eldest not more than seventeen years of age. The best education England can afford is bestowed on them, and to mark at once his patriotism, and to shew how little he looks to the favour of *any* administration for the aggrandizement of his family, he  
placed

placed his eldest son, a few months since, in the brewery, after he had finished his school education at Eton, in hopes of making him, what he is himself, an useful citizen, a good subject, and an *independent man*.

His attention to the duties of magistracy has been unremitting, and his conduct impartial and upright. While Sheriff he gave universal satisfaction.

Mr. Combe stood a contest with Alderman Lushington for Member of Parliament with the City, but the ministerial party succeeded in having Mr. Lushington returned. On the last general election, however, Mr. Combe was elected one of the representatives for the City.

Mr. Combe's political opinions are marked by consistency and decision; he

is a true friend to our glorious constitution of Kings, Lords, and Commons. In Parliament he steadily opposes the present, as he would any administration, whose plans went to circumscribe the liberty of the subject, or injure the prosperity of their country.

In private life he appears in the most amiable point of view, surrounded by a numerous and affectionate family, who look up to him with delight, as the best husband, father, master, and friend.

His temper is ardent and resolute; his manners frank, open, and courteous; he possesses a robust constitution, a vigorous understanding, and a correct judgment. No man has more personal friends, and no man deserves them better.

And

And yet this is the man, that a miserable junto of Aldermen, who, if they were all amalgamated together, there could not be extracted from the filthy mass, as much talent or public spirit as would turn the balance of a pair of gold scales, by low intrigue, had put aside from being Mayor for the last year, rather chusing to break through their own constitution by preferring a junior alderman, than see *him* seated in that chair, which they well knew he would fill with honour to himself, and advantage to the city.

This year they made a second and a desperate attempt for the same worthy purpose; but it turned out—not indeed as they had fondly hoped—for, alas! while it served to raise *him* to the very pinnacle of public favour, it sunk *them* into general contempt.

It now remains to be seen, whether ministerial wrath will eject its poison upon the man whom the great body of his fellow-citizens have, in a manner, no less honourable to themselves than to him, raised into deserved honour, and more than ordinary eminence. The æra of his election to the mayoralty raises more of interest and expectation than have been excited since first the rays of royal indignation served only *to illumine him whom they could not consume*. It is not a small acquisition that the great and respectable body of the Livery may now be enabled to lay at the feet of his Majesty, their sense of the enormous burthens the people labour under, and of the means by which ministerial intrigue has converted the majority of the now defeated corps into the shield, not of the people, but of the minister. It is not a small matter that they have called forth a man *honour-*  
*able*

*able* in his private, *able* in his public life, neither factious nor improperly ambitious, to whom malignity itself cannot impute crime, nor from whose really patriotic tenor of conduct envy itself cannot detract, however it may dislike. To end that war which it is not possible for any commercial country long to sustain without ruin, to lay the foundation of a peace, which ministers may fear, as implying their own dismissal, but which every thinking and humane man deeply sighs for; these and many more blessings may be the direct consequences of this really important event. There is as little to fear that Mr. Combe will ever, in his official capacity, overstep the awful respect due to his sovereign, as that he will ever be backward respectfully to offer to the throne the sentiments of his respectable constituents.

DR,

## DR. HUGH SMITH

Was the son of Mr. Smith, an eminent surgeon and apothecary at Hemel Hempstead, and served a regular apprenticeship, afterwards went to Edinburgh, and there graduated with much credit.

On his first coming to London he lived in Mincing-lane, and in 1759 published "An Essay on the Blood, with Reflections on Venæsection." The next year he lectured very successfully on the Theory and Practice of Physic, and afterwards published his *Text-book*, which had a most extensive sale.

In 1765 he was unanimously chosen physician to the Middlesex Hospital, and in 1770 was elected an Alderman of the Tower

Tower Ward, but on account of his numerous professional engagements was two years afterwards obliged to resign his gown.

He started in life with a very small patrimony, and was known to have been extremely distressed till he made one bold effort, and got into a carriage *at once*, which brought him into business.

He very soon after married a woman of good fortune.

The Doctor set apart two days for the poor in every week; from those who were very poor he never took any thing, and from those who were of the middle rank he never took more than half-a-guinea, yet even here was the resort to him

him so great, that he has, in one day, received fifty guineas, at half-a-guinea only from each patient; but he was, by this method, confined in the house from morning till night.

Among numerous other instances of kindness, he made it a rule never to take a fee from any inferior clergyman, any subaltern officer, or any public performer; thus nicely judging of three professions in life, those by whom money could least be spared. But he went even beyond this gratuitous bestowal of his assistance, and frequently gave pecuniary aid as well as advice. In truth, the instances of his liberality were unbounded; the proofs of his sensibility presented themselves for ever.

Those

Those who best knew him will best remember some little whimsicalities that frequently attended his conduct. Though hurried to death by the increasing number of his patients, and the incessant demands for his advice, that patient was the first to engage his attention who was a sick sportsman. Better than the best fee was it to be master of a good pointer ; to have invented some new device about a fowling-piece was the best chance of obtaining a prescription ; and a good shot, with a tale of shooting, would undoubtedly have kept the Doctor from a Duchess who was dying.

This small foible was at last so well known, that numbers affected to be sportsmen, who were so weak they could not have walked over a stubble, and who held forth on the pleasures of the field, when  
they

they had unfortunately been confined to their beds.

In the few hours which this gentleman could steal from business for convivial pleasures, it was observable to every one, that he had made no ill use of experience: the acuteness of his observation, his fund of general knowledge, his acquaintance with the town, and the manners of the metropolis; the scenes of varied life in which he had been engaged, and where some gaieties were not forgotten—all combined to render his converse amusing and instructive. No man who had once been in his company, but wished for it again; and the women seemed actuated by the same sentiment.

After many years passed in unceasing attention to his profession, he found it  
time

time to relax from labor. At first he was in hopes, that by denying himself to business two days in the week, his health would have recovered; but his constitution was gone too far, and he found it necessary to dispose of his house at Blackfriars, and retire into the country. On this he purchased a residence at Stratford, in Essex, where, nearly to the last moment, he wished to see and receive his friends. His doors ever open—his table ever hospitable—his manners ever affable and gentle—still continued to invite those who valued him, and respected his worth. But still was a painful sensation mixed with the received pleasure, that of beholding his decay.

To the last moment he looked on death with a temper placid, but firm; he spoke of it as the necessary end of all, but which

was

was to fall to his share very shortly, and his departure did not disgrace his fortitude. He died on Sunday, the 26th of December, 1790; and he died as a good man would wish to depart—loved and lamented by all!

With a sufficient fortune which this worthy man left behind him, were left too large a collection to supply the physician and equip the sportsman. Added to Treatises on Physic were found the greatest number of fowling-pieces and pointers, certainly, in the possession of any Doctor in Medicine.

He kept them as memorials of the field, when the days of sporting were gone by; and to the latest hour, when he could walk out into his garden, he would enumerate the *sets* which Ponto had made,  
how

how he ranged, the fleetest of the field, and never blinked his game.

The contrivance which he invented for the sight of a gun, had made, in the opinion of Manton (whose word in guns may be taken) more *bad shots* than any article since their first invention; but he was partial to his own idea, and seldom missing himself, thought he had found out the art to make others equally successful.

If to his physical skill, and to its undeviating felicity, further praise could be added, it should be this: There was, in the gentle and the humane manner in which he suited himself to every case, something more sanative than even his prescriptions. His address, his tone of voice, was the *lenimen doloris*, and there flowed from his attention an encouragement, perhaps, beyond hope.

M

SIR

## SIR JOHN BARNARD.

Was a distinguished patriot in the reign of George the Second, and represented the City in many Parliaments. He was one of those whom *Walpole* could neither buy nor corrupt. A statue was in gratitude erected to his memory upon the Royal Exchange. He died immensely rich.

Sir John Barnard was not less distinguished as a magistrate than as a senator; in each situation he did his duty with the minutest scrupulosity. A young woman, decently dressed, was late at night brought to him, at the Mansion-house, by a watchman, as a prostitute, she having been found alone late in the streets at midnight. She requested to be heard in her defence.

Circum-

Circumstances were however, so much against her, that Sir John asked her, if she could produce any person to her character? She said, that her relations lived a great way off, as far as Whitechapel, and that it would be inconvenient to him to wait till they could be produced. He said, as a magistrate, his time was that of the public, and their convenience his, and that he would willingly sit up till her friends should come, and prevent her being sent to prison\*. The girl sent to

\* Our modern magistrates are not sufficiently cautious with respect to sending persons to prison on very trivial suspicions, nor in keeping them there by way of punishment for petty crimes; confining them in those places of wickedness and despair, where, as Dr. Johnson says very well, "the lewd inflame the lewd, the wicked encourage the wicked; and where a criminal is taught to do that with more cunning which he had been used to do with less."

Whitechapel for some of her friends, who gave her an exceeding good character, and corroborated the reasons she gave for being out so late. This excellent magistrate said, he had never felt more sincere pleasure in his life; and after advising her to be more cautious in future, dismissed her. Sir Robert Walpole, whom Sir John frequently opposed, when he thought his measures improper, paid him, one day, a great compliment: They were riding out in two different parties in a narrow lane, and one of Sir Robert's companions hearing Sir John's voice, before he came up to them, asked Sir Robert whose voice that was: "Do not you know?" replied the minister; "it is one that I shall never forget; I have often felt its power." When they met together at the end of the lane, Sir Robert, saluting Sir John with that fascinating  
courtesy

courtesy which he eminently possessed, told him what had happened.

Sir John Barnard, when he quitted the persuasion of the Quakers, did not lay aside the simplicity of his manners, and the integrity of his conduct. When Sir Robert Walpole, then prime minister, was one day whispering to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who leaned towards him over the arm of his chair, at the time that Sir John was speaking, he exclaimed, " Mr. Speaker, I address myself to you, and not to your chair ; I will be heard ; I call that gentleman to order." The Speaker immediately turned about, dismissed Sir Robert, begged Sir John's pardon, and requested him to proceed. The late Mr. Robert Dingley used to say, that Sir John refused to accept of the post

of Chancellor of the Exchequer, when it was offered to him, in 1746.

During the time that Lord Grenville was Secretary of State, when any application was made to administration by the merchants and commercial gentlemen of the city, he always asked, "What does Sir John say to this? What is *his* opinion?"

Lord Chatham (then Mr. Pitt) a man not particularly liberal in his praises, gave Sir John the dignified appellation of the "*great commoner*," an appellation which, with equal propriety, was afterwards retorted upon himself.

When, by the death of Sir James Thompson, he became the first on the list of the Court of Aldermen, the title of  
"Father

“Father of the City,” (a title always given to an Alderman in that situation) devolved upon him; and that honorable title, given long since to that firm and upright patriot, Cato the Younger, merely reverberated by succession that distinction to which, by his virtues, he had ever a claim. This appears to have been confirmed in the most forcible manner by the erection of a statue to him during his lifetime in the Royal Exchange; after which circumstance, however, Sir John never made his appearance within that fabric, but transacted his business in the front of it.

“In a country, the basis of whose strength, and the source of whose prosperity is commerce, those men, who, by their industry, abilities, or a bold and hazardous exertion of their fortunes, have encreased its channels, may justly be considered as

worthy of the best remunerations it has to bestow ; the brave officer, the able statesman, the accomplished senator, the profound lawyer, all look to the hereditary honors of their country for their great reward ; and distinguished merit, in every one of these situations, well deserves them. An opinion has often pressed upon my private reflections, that the merchant who has risked his property, and passed a sedulous, painful life, in extending the limits of trade, and thereby opening new channels of wealth to his country, possesses claims by no means inferior to any order of men in the state. But, even in the most enlightened age, and among a people celebrated for knowledge and liberality of sentiment, reason must sometimes yield to prejudice : and, if a man whose commercial genius and pursuits had been of the first utility to his country ; if

another

another Sir Thomas Gresham were to be rewarded for his public services by the patent of a peerage; the noble body who possess the honor would think itself disgraced, and the nation at large, though proud of its commercial character and glory, would not be satisfied with such a supposed blemish in the rank of its hereditary representatives: Without entering at large into the propriety of opening a new road to the first honors of this kingdom, I must observe, with truth, that he who establishes manufactories at home, and enlarges the scale of commerce abroad, is, at least, a person of real consequence to the state: Does not such a one encrease the means of employment to the labouring poor? Does he not extend the reputation of British skill and British integrity, and open a new influx of wealth to his country? These are services whose importance

portance must be evident to every one ; may it not therefore be asked, why the man who has performed them should not be admitted to the principal rank of that society which has received such eminent benefit from him. If, in military governments, honours are monopolized by the soldier ; in a commercial country, the merchant surely, on certain occasions, might be permitted to share them. The highest order of nobles amongst us does not disdain to make alliance with the 'counting-house ; and it is not possible for a peer to think it a disgrace to his rank, that the father of his wife, and the ancestor of his children, should partake of his own honours. There are some examples of the younger branches of nobility who have engaged in trade, and have not been thought to disgrace their birth by their professions ; nor do I find where, by the death

death of intervening relations, the noble merchant has succeeded to the honours of his family, that the peerage has considered him as a contaminated member of it.

“ The *eclat* which naturally attends the career of the soldier, and the great dependence which the interest and glory of our country has upon naval abilities; besides, the habitual modes of rewarding the heroes of war in all countries, ancient and modern, will give them an undisputed pre-eminence. The statesman, especially of the higher denomination, has a natural claim to those honours among which he has lived, to which he has been at times officially superior, and are sometimes essential to his station; but, on revolving the matter in my most serious thoughts, I cannot discover any reason why commerce has not an equal claim to the  
peerage

peerage with the law : nor has any argument occurred to my reflection, which, in the matter before me, may be advanced against the former, but may, with equal justice, be applied to the disadvantage of the latter.

“ The law is denominated a liberal pursuit, and merchandize is not honored with that appellation. Now, if by this title is understood a profession that requires superior education and superior talents, the knowledge whereof is not to be obtained but by great labour of the mind, is incapable of being transferred to another, and cannot be acquired by those mechanical rules which save the pains of thought, and the hazard of misfortune ; if this is a just definition, I cannot conceive but that the higher branches of commerce are as liberal as the profession of the law.

“The object of gain will, I believe, be acknowledged to be common to them both; and the office of the Attorney, the Chambers of the Special Pleader, Conveyancer, and Chancery Draughtsman, or even the Library of the higher order of Pleading Counsel, cannot be said, on any liberal principle, to be superior to the 'counting-house. The education of a merchant deserves an attention equal to that of the other professions. The interests, produce, customs, language, &c. of other countries, together with that of his own country, with many other branches of knowledge, are the objects of commercial instruction; and to prepare the mind of the future merchant, to make a wise and happy application of his abilities to his professional pursuits, it is necessary he should receive that education which may, with strict justice, be denominated liberal,

liberal, and acquire those manners which deserve the same title. The mere study of books is less necessary in the one than in the other; but the application of the mind is equally requisite where commerce is pursued with zeal, industry, and a spirit of enterprize. The plodding character which is so generally applied to trade, is equally applicable to the business of Westminster-hall, where heavy perseverance frequently leaves unsuccessful genius behind it. The Courts of Justice do not afford a more striking spectacle to the philosophical politician than the Royal Exchange, while the public commercial offices do not yield, in orderly regulation, to those of the law departments; and, with respect to the external appearance of business, far excel them.

“If trade is considered as mechanical, the opposed profession cannot elevate itself  
above

above the same description ; and I am very much disposed to believe, that the spirit of the laws, and the effects of them, are oftentimes more clearly seen and understood by the well-instructed and experienced merchant, than by the lawyer himself. The debates of the public Corporate Bodies, and of the House of Commons, will confirm the truth of this observation.

“ That the man of commerce becomes, with less toil, and more readily, acquainted with the nature and extent of his profession, will be acknowledged ; and it will be as willingly allowed, that where he has able and confidential assistants, he can, when his line and track of business is firmly established, transfer a part of its duties to them ; privileges which the lawyer does but very partially enjoy. If, however,

however, any advantage is gained by such a circumstance, it is certainly on the side of the merchant, who thereby acquires a leisure for those liberal and unshackled pursuits which improve and enlarge the mind. This comparison might be carried much farther ; and, I believe, the utmost extent of it would be found to justify the sentiments I have already delivered."

These observations are borrowed from the pen of an elegant writer, but they contain so much good sense, so happily expressed, that we trust we shall readily find an apology from our readers for the insertion.

SIR JOHN BARNARD'S SON.

Sir John Barnard's Son died a few years since in Berkley-square, also immensely rich and *prophetic*.

Whatever

Whatever were this gentleman's failings, *the neglect of little things* was not one of them; even at his father's funeral, he is known to have taken care of the candles' ends\*.

His prophecy of his own death was accompanied with the same spirit of mi-

\* Who can say how far ingenious œconomy may be extended? Who has not heard of the device of the penurious Elves, that at the age of seventy *robbed the crow's nest* to gain materials for his winter's fire? Of Ostervald, scarcely less rich, who laid the foundation of his immense fortune, not on a rock, but a cork, for where he took his slender potation, he gathered all the drawn corks he could reach, and hoarded them till they produced twelve Louis, with which he begun his career of business.—Of Taylor, the late broker, who, when he discovered, on his death-bed, that his attendant had, to enrich his broth, made use of a candle's end he had in vain searched for, declared he could “now die contented.”

nute frugality. The fact was literally this:—

Among the ordinary practices of his common living, was the use of chocolate; he used it every morning. Eight and forty hours before his death the bell was rung, and the housekeeper called for, to whom Mr. Barnard addressed himself, and directed her *not* to make chocolate for *four* days, as had been usual, but to diminish the quantity, and make enough for *two* mornings only. Before the third morning came, came also his death.

ALDER-





BRASS CROSBY Esq.  
*LORD MAYOR of LONDON.*

## ALDERMAN BRASS CROSBY

Was articled to an Attorney in Cumberland, and afterwards practised for himself in London.

He was Lord Mayor of London in the year 1770.

In every situation of life he was the decided supporter of public liberty\*, at the risk

\* To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

*The Humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common Council assembled.*

“WE, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, most humbly beg leave to approach your Majesty, and most sincerely to lay again at the foot

risk of his personal safety and fortune ;  
he never suffered the rights of the citizens  
to

of the throne, our aggravated grievances and earnest supplications. Although, through the prevalence of evil counsellors, our just complaints have hitherto met with repulse and reprimand, nevertheless we will not forego the last consolation of the unhappy hope, that our sufferings will at length find an end from the innate goodness of your Majesty : the gracious effects of which have, to our unspeakable grief, been intercepted from your injured people by a fatal conspiracy of malevolent influences around the throne.

“ We, therefore, again implore your Majesty, in this sad crisis, with hearts big with sorrow, and warm with affection, not to be induced, by false suggestions, contrary to the benignity of your royal nature, to shut up your paternal compassion and justice against the prayers of unhappy subjects, claiming, as we now again presume to do, with equal humility and free-born plainness, our indisputable *birth-rights*, freedom of election, and right of petitioning.

“ We

to be invaded by press-warrants. He defended the Printers against the assumed power

“ We have seen the known *law of the land*, the sure guardian of right, trodden down, and, by the influence of daring ministers, *arbitrary discretion*, the law of tyrants, set up to overthrow the *choice of the electors*, and *nominate* to a seat in parliament a person not chosen by the people.

“ Your Majesty’s throne is founded on the free exercise of this great right of election ; to preserve it inviolate is true loyalty ; to undermine and destroy it is the most compendious treason against the whole constitution.

“ Deign then, Sir, amidst the complicated dangers which surround us, to restore satisfaction and harmony to your faithful subjects, by removing from your Majesty’s presence all evil counsellors, and by recurring to the recent sense of your people, taken in a new parliament.

“ By

power of the two Houses of Parliament  
to arrest and imprison, by virtue of their  
own

“ By such an exertion alone of your own royal wisdom and virtue, the various wounds of the constitution can be effectually healed; and, by *representatives freely chosen, and acting independently*, the salutary awe of parliament cannot fail to secure to us that sacred bulwark of English liberty, *the trial by jury*, against the dangerous designs of those who have dared openly to attempt to mutilate its powers, and destroy its efficacy.

“ To will dissatisfaction and national weakness, change at once into public confidence, order, strength, and dignity, and this boasted Constitution of England, so late the envy of nations, no longer held forth to the derision of Europe, electors not suffered to elect, juries forbid to judge *of the whole matter* in issue before them, and dutiful petitioners, remonstrating the most flagrant grievances, branded by the ministers who oppress them, *as seditious infractors* of that Constitution which we religiously

“ revere,



Engraved for the Oxford Mag. 1771.



The Fate of City Remon- strances.

own authority, without trial by Jury; and  
he committed to Newgate the Serjeant at  
Arms

revere, and, together with your Majesty's sacred  
person, will unceasingly defend against all enemies  
and betrayers."

HIS MAJESTY'S ANSWER.

"As I have seen no reason to alter the opinion  
expressed in my answer to your address upon this  
subject, I cannot comply with the prayer of your  
petition."

The three following queries having been proposed  
to the Council undermentioned, we have been fa-  
voured with the opinion given, and present the whole  
to our readers.—

Query 1. May the Lords of the Admiralty, of  
themselves, by virtue of their commission, or under  
the direction of the Privy Council, legally issue war-  
rants for the impressing of seamen?

Q. 2. If yea, is the warrant annexed in point of  
form legal?

Q. 3.

Arms of the House of Commons, for presuming to execute a warrant of that House  
to

Q. 3. Is the Lord Mayor compellable to back such warrants; if he is, what may be the consequence of a refusal?

“ The power of the crown to compel persons pursuing the employment and occupation of seamen to serve the public in times of danger and necessity, which has its foundation in that universal principle of the laws of all countries, that all private interests must give way to the public safety, appears to us to be well established by ancient and long continued usage, frequently recognized, and in many instances regulated by the legislature, and noticed, at least without censure, by courts of justice; and we see no objection to this power being exercised by the Lords of the Admiralty, under the authority of his Majesty's order in Council.

“ The form of the warrant, as well as the manner in which such warrants have been usually executed, appear to us to be liable to many considerable objections;

to arrest the persons of several Printers, citizens of London, for which he was committed to the Tower, with Alderman Oliver, by the House of Commons, and kept there during the Session, when he was delivered by *habeas corpus*.

objections; but the nature of those objections leads us to think it the more expedient, that the authority of a civil magistrate should interpose in the execution of them, to check and controul the abuses to which they are liable; and therefore, although we do not think that the Lord Mayor is compellable to back the warrants, or liable to any punishment in case of his refusal, we think it right to submit it to his Lordship's consideration, whether it will not be more conducive to the preservation of the peace of the city, and the protection of the subject from oppression, if he conforms, in this instance, to what we understand to have been the practice of most of his predecessors upon the like occasion.

“AL. WEDDERBURN.

“Nov. 20, 1770.”

“J. GLYNN.

“J. DUNNING.”

O

When

When in the Tower, he received addresses from twenty-five English counties, and all the independent cities of the kingdom.

He married three wives, by whom he is said to have received fortunes equal to 200,000*l.* and was alike amiable in his public and private character\*.

\* The collector, according to annual custom, appointed a day for the surveyors of the hop-duty to meet at St. Mary Cray, in Kent, in order to receive their instructions and appointments, and to take the usual oath to qualify them for that business. Alderman Crosby attended as a Justice of the Peace for that county. Hearing some dispute amongst them, he desired to know the reason. Being told that it was always customary for each man appointed to that duty to pay one shilling, and that one of them had refused to comply with the demand, after dinner his Worship sent for one of the men, who had been upon that duty several years, and asked him if he

ever

ever paid any thing, and who he paid it to, and for what purpose it was collected: he was answered, that he always paid one shilling, but could not tell to what purpose it was applied, but thought that it was to the Justice's clerk for administering the oath. The Alderman, struck with surprize at the reply, said, " I take nothing for my trouble, neither will I suffer my clerk to take any thing." Upon enquiring further into the matter, he found that the money so collected was appropriated to defray the expence of the dinner, wines, &c. ordered upon the occasion, and said, " I find that I have partook of a very elegant dinner at the expence of these poor men, some of whom, perhaps, must go without any themselves." He expressed his feelings for, and disapprobation of, such an imposition, in a manner that did him honour both as a magistrate and a gentleman, said, he would represent the circumstance to the Commissioners, and, if in his power, would get it redressed.—*Morn. Chron.* 27th Aug. 1779.

FINIS.

everybody any thing, and who he said it to, and for what purpose it was intended: he was answered, that he had paid one thing, but would not tell to what purpose it was applied, but thought that it was to the father's clerk for administering the oath. The father, struck with surprise at the reply, said, "I had a notion for my trouble, whether will I suffer my clerk to take any thing." Upon examining the account the father, he found that the money so collected was applied to defray the expenses of the dinner, wine, &c. ordered upon the occasion, and said, "I find that I have pocketed of a very elegant dinner at the expense of these poor men, some of whom, perhaps, must go without any thing to eat." He expressed his feelings for, and disapprobation of, such an application in a manner that did him honour both as a magistrate and a gentleman, and he would have been glad to have done so to the Commissioners, and would have been glad to have done so to the father.



ments suitable to his rank and fortune; and being obliged to go over to Jamaica to settle his affairs, where he remained two years; upon his return home, with a design to marry his beloved girl, to his great mortification he found her with child by a mulatto boy, not then sixteen, whom he had left with her as a page. This so affected him, that his friends were afraid it would have cost him his life: he, however, provided handsomely for her, and sent her back to Holland. He had, besides, several other natural children, for all of whom he provided in a handsome manner.

He was a great encourager of such as had the care of the education of his children, and gave liberally to the ushers of the schools where they studied; and contributed also to every charitable founda-

tion for the instruction of youth within the Bills of Mortality.

In 1756 he married Mrs. March, relict of Francis March, Esq.

In his diet he was exceedingly moderate, when by himself, notwithstanding the grandeur of his entertainments, to set off which no manner of expence was spared.

---

### SIR JAMES ESDAILE,

*Lord Mayor in 1778.*

This respectable character is a Banker in Lombard-street, and was Cartouche-maker to the army, a business in which he realized a large and rapid fortune.

In

In private character no man is more amiable, or more universally respected; his name *appears* in every *public* charity, and what is better, is in a vast number of private ones, where *it does not publicly appear*. As in these sheets, however, we never omit an endeavour to excite a smile, where we can do it without injury to the parties, we have to observe, that this worthy Baronet resides next door to an alehouse in Bunhill-row, Moorfields, which has a private door communicating with his own house, for the convenience of indulgence in his favourite beverage—*good ale*.

SIR

## SIR SAMUEL FLUDYER, BART.

Sir Samuel Fludyer was a Blackwell-hall factor of the first eminence. His origin was so low, as to be employed in attending the pack-horses, which were formerly used to bring cloth from the west country to London. By great industry, a spirit of enterprize, and good fortune, he acquired prodigious wealth, and arrived at great importance in the commercial world; and, without remitting a most continued attention to the objects of this extensive commerce, he lived in all the taste and luxury of nobility, to which he had, indeed, by his second marriage, allied himself.

Although, by some unexpected manoeuvres against him, he was an unsuccessful candidate

gave it as an information, in his second he owned it to be in consequence of an order from his Excellency. Mr. Mason rose again in defence of the propriety of Sir George Macartney's conduct (not in defence of the measure itself.) Mr. Lodge Morris advised to drop any further debate, as the adjournment thereof was agreed to; and then, Mr. Cramer having moved that the King's last letters should be laid before the House next Tuesday, and the motion being agreed to, the House adjourned till tomorrow.

However, by the late dispatches brought over from Ireland, our Ministry have had the mortification to find themselves again defeated by the patriotic House of Commons of Ireland, who, to their everlasting honour and exemplary virtue, have again outvoted the castle by twelve votes, declaring the appointment of the five new Commissioners illegal.

[ To be continued. ]

*The following is a Copy of the Requisition of the Livery of London, presented to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, for a Common-hall, the 11th Instant.*

To the Right Hon. WILLIAM NASH, Esq; Lord Mayor of the city of London.

WE, the underwritten liverymen, on behalf of ourselves and brethren the livery of London, do most earnestly request your Lordship will summon a common-hall on any convenient day, previous to the 15th instant, for the purposes of giving public instructions to our Representatives in Parliament, relative to the very important motion intended to be made by Mr. Alderman Sawbridge, in the House of Commons, for shortening the duration of Parliaments.

Signed by one hundred and forty-three liverymen.

When the above was presented to his Lordship, the Gentleman received, for answer, he would consider of it; and, on Wednesday the 11th instant, the following answer was sent to Mr. Charles Sommers, of Walbrook:

The Lord Mayor desires the favour of Mr. Sommers to present his compliments to the Gentlemen who yesterday made an application to him in writing, requesting him to summon a common-hall on any convenient day, previous to the 15th instant, for the purpose of giving public instructions to the city's Representatives in Parliament, relative to the very important motion intended to be made by Mr. Alderman Sawbridge in the House of Commons, for shortening the duration of Parliaments; and the Lord Mayor desires the Gentlemen may be acquainted, that he is very desirous of embracing every opportunity of testifying the most respectful attention to the wishes of his fellow-citizens: BUT that, as the right of the Mayor to summon extraordinary common-halls has been brought into question, and is now in litigation in a Court of Justice, he thinks it proper to suspend the exer-

cise of that right till the question has received a legal determination; and the rather, as all motions of consequence, relative to matters arising within the city, or in which the corporation are supposed to be interested, may be submitted to the consideration of the Court of Common-council, which he will be ready to call together on all necessary occasions.

Mansion-house, Feb. 12, 1772.

When the above answer was read to the livery, assembled at the Half-moon tavern on Friday night, it was received with universal marks of disapprobation.

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor having refused the application of the livery for a common-hall, in consequence thereof 23 of the Common-council on Saturday last waited upon his Lordship with this requisition:

To the Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR.

My Lord,

We, the underwritten Members of the Court of Common-council, at the earnest request of a numerous meeting of the livery on Friday night at the Half-moon tavern, Cheap-side, desire your Lordship to call a Court of Common-council on Tuesday the 18th instant, to take into consideration their application to your Lordship for a common-hall to instruct their Representatives in Parliament to support a motion, intended to be made by Mr. Alderman Sawbridge, for shortening the duration of Parliaments.

N. B. It is requested this business be inserted in the summons.

To which, at a quarter past eleven o'clock at night, his Lordship returned the following answer:

The

'The Lord Mayor presents his compliments to Mr. Bishop, and the Gentlemen who waited on him this morning, and acquaints them, that he will call a Court of Common-council on some convenient day in the next week; but that, as the application to him for a common-hall, to which he has already given a definitive answer, does not appear to him to be a proper subject for discussion in the Court of Common-council, he cannot permit that business to be inserted in the summons.'

Mansion-house, Saturday evening,

Feb. 15, 1772.

At the Court of Common-council held on the 10th, the Lord Mayor acquainted them he had called them together to give them an early opportunity to consider of the expediency of instructing their Representatives to support an intended motion in the House of Commons, to shorten the duration of Parliament. Upon which the following question was moved: 'That this Court do instruct the Representatives of this city in Parliament to support a motion intended to be made in the House of Commons for shortening the duration of Parliaments from seven to three years.'

*Mr. SAWBRIDGE'S Speech on the Lord Mayor's Refusal of a Common-hall.*

MY LORD MAYOR,

I Should feel some pain in addressing myself to your Lordship, who preside in this Court, with a censure on your own conduct, if the occasion which your Lordship has given for it were capable of any justification, or if the motives of your conduct were at all doubtful. Sir, a Chief Magistrate of the city of London (whatever royal example, alas! he may follow) will not silently be permitted by its citizens to evade their petitions by falsehood.

The reason which you have given, for refusing the request of a common-hall to the livery, runs literally thus:—'As the right of the Mayor to summon extraordinary common-halls has been brought into question, and is now in litigation in a Court of Justice, you think it proper to suspend the exercise of that right till the question has received a legal determination.' In this, Sir, is contained a double falsehood. The fact, which you alledge as the ground of your reason, is not a truth: Nor is that reason, which you pretend, the true reason of your refusal. 1. The right of the Mayor is not in question, is not in litigation. The individuals, who (regardless of their oaths) disobeyed the Lord Mayor's precepts, have

The previous question was then put, and carried.

The following motion was then made, and carried by a great majority, only three Aldermen, viz. Alfop, Rossiter, and Bird, and twenty of the Common-council, voting against it:

'That the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor be desired to issue his precepts for calling a common-hall, on any convenient day in the course of the next week, for the purpose of the liverymen of this city giving instructions to their Representatives in Parliament, to support the very important motion intended there to be made by Mr. Alderman Sawbridge, for shortening the duration of Parliaments.'

It was then moved, and carried nemine contradicente, 'that such Members of this Court, who are Members of Parliament, be requested to support every motion tending to shorten the duration of Parliaments.'

The Lord Mayor then arose, and declared, that he neither could, nor would, comply with their requisition. He referred them, for the reasons of his refusal, to the answer he had formerly given them.

been proceeded against by information in the Mayor's Court, where they put in no plea; the cause has since been removed by them into the King's bench, where likewise they have hitherto put in no plea. The allegation therefore is false. 2. If the supposed litigation of the right was, as you pretend, the true reason of your refusal, you would now yield to the request, since your mistake has been discovered to you, and the ground removed: But since you still obstinately refuse, though convicted, to comply with the joint request of the Livery and Common-council (who cannot be supposed less anxious to preserve their rights than your Lordship,) you do evidently manifest that your assumed fearfulness of putting the right in hazard was a mere hypocritical pretence, and that you are guided by other reasons of your own imagined interest. And this opens to us a third falsehood, by proving, that the preamble, in which you profess yourself—'very desirous of embracing every opportunity of testifying the most respectful attention to the wishes of your fellow-citizens'—has no more truth in it than the ground and reason of your refusal.

But, Sir, should we even grant you the truth

truth of what you have advanced, should we suppose the right to be in litigation, yet the absurdity of the reason is too gross to pass upon the livery of London. The right is disputed, and therefore you think it proper not to exercise it! Sir, you were elected to the office you now hold, on purpose to defend the rights of your constituents: You have been sworn to defend their rights. What sort of a notion must you entertain of your office! How nugatory and ridiculous do you render both that and your oath! What rights, think you, you were chosen and sworn to defend? Those that are not not attacked? Most excellent Commander! How safe must a nation be, guarded by an army of such valiant soldiers! If your Lordship continues to reason thus, perhaps this is the last time we shall meet here together in your Lordship's mayoralty; for, should any one to-morrow object to your right, your Lordship can call no more Courts of Aldermen or Common-council 'till the question shall have received a legal determination.'

I remember, when your Lordship first entered upon your office, you promised us we should find you an independent Magistrate. We understand now what you meant by that promise: We shall know better for the future what is meant by the word independent, when it is used by persons of your Lord-

ship's complexion. An independent Magistrate, it seems, means a Magistrate independent of his constituents, independent of his duty, independent of his oath. Sir, there is unfortunately too much of this independence abroad: There are Monarchs, we know, who think themselves independent of their people, and independent of the laws; nay, what is still more monstrous, there are Representatives in this nation independent of those whom they represent. Sir, it was in order to destroy this sort of independence that a Common-hall was desired by the livery; and to continue to increase and to perpetuate it is the true reason that it was most consistently refused by your Lordship.

But we are now told that the Common-council should not press your Lordship upon the question of a common-hall, 'because you have already given a definitive answer to the livery!' Which is equivalent to this—Gentlemen, I, the Lord Mayor, have refused to do my duty; and therefore I hope that you, the Common-council, will not perform yours.—I have no doubt but the Gentlemen of the Common council will give this argument proper attention: To me, I own, it seems an additional reason that the Common-council should exert themselves more strenuously, on account of the Lord Mayor's shameful deficiency.

## FOREIGN ADVICES.

Constantinople, January 3.

**F**RESH advices received from the Grand Visir's army bring still new misfortunes, which have occasioned very serious conferences between his Highness, his Ministers, and the Divan.

The general report here is, that the Russians, to the number of 18,000, have attacked and defeated, near Silistria, a body of forty-thousand Turks, commanded by the Grand Visir Moezzo-Zade and three Pachas. It is said likewise, that some of their shipping have entered the port of Bodroen, and burned there several vessels, which were upon the stocks.

[Another account says, that the Turks were commanded by four Pachas, besides the Grand Visir; and that, in consequence of this defeat, orders had been sent the Grand Visir to conclude peace immediately with the Russians upon any terms he could; but it was not known whether he was alive.]

The Porte has published a general pardon in favour of all its subjects that have taken up arms against it, not excepting even those who follow piracy.

A letter from Copenhagen, dated January 18, 1772, mentions the following circumstan-

ces: 'On Thursday a masked ball was given here, which finished about three o'clock, and, when all was at rest the unlucky change happened. The Queen was conducted to Cronenburg by Count Ranzaw, and the Count Struensée, under arrest, was brought to the castle; Count Gables with his Lady, Col. Brand, Col. Falkon, and a physician, and many more, in the whole 18 persons, were sent under arrest to the castle. At eleven o'clock the next morning the King, with Prince Frederick, went in a coach quite slow through the principal streets of Copenhagen to shew themselves to the public, who were all in a ferment, but shewed great joy to see their King alive. Above 100 houses were demolished before the King shewed himself in public.

'Two regiments of infantry, besides the garrison, are on duty to keep good order.

'The Count Ranzaw has on this occasion shewn himself a patriot.'

Extract of a Letter from Altena, Jan. 24.

'On the 17th instant her Majesty, the Queen, with the young Princess and Lady Mostyn, under a guard of 30 dragoons, were conducted to the fortrefs of Cronenburg. The Count Struensée and Brandt, the Counsellor  
S<sup>r</sup> &c.

Struensee, General Gahler and his Lady, are likewise sent to prison; the Master of the Horse, Bulow, General Gude, Colonel Falkenschied, Lieutenant general Hesselberg, the Privy-counsellor Wildebrand, the State's Secretary Zoaga, Panning, and more are arrested in their houses, under strong guards. The papers belonging to the abovementioned persons are sealed up, and Commissioners appointed to enquire into the affair. His Majesty gave all his orders relative to the above after he came from the ball, at one o'clock in the morning, which were directed to be immediately executed.

Colonel Koller, whose regiment was that day on duty, together with the other Officers of his regiment, had orders to arrest the abovementioned persons. The King after-

wards made him Lieutenant-general, and every Officer rose a degree higher. Major-general Eichsted was made Governor of Copenhagen.

Council Office. Prince Frederic, Count Rantz w, Tott and Osten, the Prince Charles and his Lady are ordered to attend.

Commissioners to examine the affair. Juell Wind, Braem, Stampe, Lupdorf, Karstens, Sevel, Koford Aucker: Prince Frederic is to be Vice-regent.

Extract of a Letter from the Hague, Jan. 28.

It is generally believed here, that the preliminaries between the Turks and Russians are already settled; the last news from Poland, which I have strong reasons to believe are true, bring, even that hostilities have already entirely ceased.

## Historical Chronicle for February, 1772.

January 31.

A LETTER from Liverpool, dated January 21, says, 'In consequence of a letter from a committee of the principal tradesmen here, to the Post-office in London, complaining of the illegal exaction of one half-penny on the delivery of post letters in this town over and above the legal postage, the Post-masters General have sent orders to the Post-master here, to deliver the letters in the manner that has been customarily observed, agreeable to a late determination of the Court of King's-bench in favour of Oxford and Gloucester.'

The report was made to his Majesty of the prisoners under sentence of death, when the seven following were ordered for execution on Wednesday next, being the 12th, viz. William Parker and John Burn, for a burglary in the dwelling-house of Mrs. Sarah Watson, at Chelsea; William Smith, alias Thumper, for a burglary in the dwelling-house of Mr. Nesbit, in Aldermanbury; and Francis Phenix, Charles Burton, Henry Jones, and Edward Flannagan, for a burglary in the house of Sir Robert Ladbroke. The following are respited during his Majesty's pleasure, viz. Sarah Freshwater, for stealing a silver watch from Mr. Morrison; John Lewis, for robbing George Matthew, on the highway, of a guinea; and John Randall and John Ward, for robbing Elisabeth Tooth, in Hyde-park, of one shilling.

February 1.

Upwards of twenty farmers were convicted before Justice Sherwood at the Rotation-office at Whitechapel, in 5s. each, for suffering their carts laden with hay and straw to remain in that market after twelve o'clock, pursuant to the late act for paving that street. These prosecutions will not only remove that nuisance of the carts standing, and the market continuing all day, but be the means of lowering the price of hay and straw in those parts, as the farmers must now dispose of their

goods by noon, or else be obliged to take it back.

February 4.

A fisherman was convicted before the Lord Mayor of fishing with unlawful nets, and was fined 5l. The full penalty is 10l. but it was mitigated, in consideration of the man's family.

The late Princess of Hesse, by her will, has given all her estates to her two younger children, except annuities to all her servants equal to the wages given until they marry, or get places where more wages are given than the annuities; and has appointed Lord Harcourt and Lord Berkeley executors.

At a Court of Assistants of the Carpenters Company on Tuesday the 4th, it was ordered, that silver medals, with the Company's arms and the name of each member engraved thereon, be given to each of their liverymen, for their admission into Guildhall, that their beadle may, on all public election-days, prevent in future any person from being admitted into Guildhall, under pretence of being a member of that Company, that the true return of the livery may be published, instead of the return of a set of people who are not liverymen, and appear there in order to disturb the peace, and good order of elections in this city.

Some dealers in butter have lately engrossed great quantities of that commodity, which rather than sell at a moderate price to the poor, have kept it till it stunk; after which it has been sold to a soap-boiler at 2d. halfpenny per pound. This fact shews the great benefit of importing Irish butter.

Notwithstanding the House of Commons have only sat twelve days, there have, during that short space of time, been 18 petitions for enclosing Commons.

February 5.

Two inquisitions were taken at Lilbourn, on the bodies of Richard Tebbis and Edward Cave, who, as they were travelling from Kilby to Lilbourn, on Saturday evening the

first



---

## CITY CELEBRITIES.

### JOHN WILKES.

JOHN WILKES was born in 1727, in St. John-street, Clerkenwell, where his father was an opulent distiller. After his early school-days he was sent to the University of Leydon, where his talents attracted much notice. In 1749 he married a Miss Mead, heiress of the Mead's of Buckinghamshire, from which marriage his connexion with that country probably originated. The only fruit of this union was a daughter, for whom he always evinced the strongest affection. In 1757 he was separated from his wife, who was ten years his senior. In July of the same year he was elected burgess for Aylesbury; and he was again chosen at the general election in 1761 for the same place. Previous to this time he had formed connexions with various men of rank, who, for the most part, were of questionable moral character. He had, however, formed some intimacies of a creditable kind. He was known to Lord Temple and Mr. Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, as early as 1754. In March, 1762, he published his observations on the papers which had, in January previous, been laid before both Houses of Parliament, relative to the rupture with Spain. Most of his information he obtained from Lord Temple, and the pamphlet was very successful. In the beginning of the following June he commenced his celebrated paper called the *North Briton*, in which he began those attacks on Lord Bute's administration which ultimately drove that minister from his post. In No. 45 of the *North Briton* Wilkes rudely attacked the King's speech, for which he was immediately served with a general warrant by the king's messenger, and conveyed to the Tower. Though the Secretary of State, who signed this warrant, only did what numerous precedents seemed to justify, the result proved that they had not acted wisely. On the 4th of May he was dismissed from his situation as Colonel of the Buckinghamshire Militia, and on the 6th the validity of his warrant of commitment was argued, his plea of privilege allowed, and he discharged. He immediately published a narrative of the transactions in which he had been engaged, and renewed the publication of the *North Briton*.



At the meeting of Parliament, in November, a copy of the obnoxious number was laid before the House of Commons, with a message from the king, acquainting them of the proceedings which had been taken against Wilkes. The House of Commons immediately resolved that the paper was a "false, scandalous, and seditious libel," and ordered it to be burnt by the common hangman. The Sheriffs of London, who proceeded to execute this sentence at the Royal Exchange, were insulted by the mob, and a riot ensued; so that what had been intended as a disgrace and punishment to Wilkes was converted into a triumph over the Ministers and Parliament, which was followed by many others. He brought an action, on his liberation from the Tower, against Robert Wood, Esq., the Under-Secretary of State, for the seizure of his papers as the supposed author of the *North Briton*. It was tried by a special jury, on the 6th December, and 1,000*l.* damages were given. The charge to the jury, delivered by Lord Chief Justice Pratt (afterwards Lord Chancellor Camden), concluded as follows:—"The warrant is unconstitutional, illegal, and absolutely void; it is a general warrant, directed to four messengers to take up any persons, without naming or describing them with any certainty, and to apprehend them, together with their papers. If it be good, a secretary of state can delegate and depute any of the messengers, or any even from the lowest of the people, to take examinations to commit or to release, and do every act which the highest judicial officers the law knows can do or order. There is no order in our law-books that mentions these kinds of warrants, but several that, in express words, condemn them. Upon the maturest consideration, I am bold to say that this warrant is illegal; but I am far from wishing a matter of this consequence to rest solely on my opinion. I am only one of twelve, whose opinions I am desirous should be taken in this matter; and I am very willing to allow myself to be the meanest of the twelve. There is also a still higher court, before which this matter may be canvassed, and whose determination is final. And here I cannot help observing the happiness of our constitution in admitting these appeals, in consequence of which material points are determined on the most mature consideration, and with the greatest solemnity. To this admirable delay of the law (for in this case the law's delay may be styled admirable), I believe it is chiefly owing that we possess the best digested and most excellent body of law which any nation on the face of the globe, whether ancient or modern, could ever boast. If these higher jurisdictions should declare my opinion as erroneous, I submit, as will become me, and kiss the rod; but I must say I shall always consider it as a rod of iron for the chastisement of the people of Great Britain."



Meanwhile Wilkes had been called upon by the House of Commons to answer the charge of being the author of the libel, but he excused himself on account of a wound which he had received in a duel. The House disregarded his excuse, proved him to be the author, and expelled him from the House on the 19th January, 1764, and in the following month he was convicted, in the Court of King's Bench, for re-publishing the *North Briton*, No. 45, and also for publishing an obscene poem entitled, "Essay on Woman." He only printed about twelve copies of this infamous poem, but the great offence was, that he had affixed to it the name of Bishop Warburton, and it was hoped by the Ministry that, by publishing this fact, they might destroy his popularity with the public. But in this they were deceived, for the people were at this time far more anxious about general warrants than about morals. Neglecting to appear when called upon to receive judgment of the Court of King's Bench, Wilkes was, about the end of the year, outlawed. He addressed a letter from France to the electors of Aylesbury, defending his conduct, and it was read with great avidity. He was absent from England during the next two years, and, on his return in 1768, he offered himself as candidate for the representation of the City of London, but he did not succeed, but immediately became a candidate for the County of Middlesex, and was chosen by a vast majority. On the 27th April he was arrested on a *capias utlagatum*, and committed to the King's Bench, and on the 18th of June was sentenced to be imprisoned twenty-two months, to pay two fines of 500*l.* each, and to give security for his good behaviour for seven years, himself in 1,000*l.*, and two sureties in 500*l.* each. On the 10th of May, 1768, the populace, who had assembled in great numbers about the King's Bench Prison, refusing to disperse, were fired on by the military, when several persons were wounded, and one was killed on the spot.

Lord Weymouth, the Secretary of State, had, in April, written to the magistrates, exhorting them to be firm in the event of a tumult, and Lord Barrington, the Secretary at War, returned thanks, after the 10th May, in the name of His Majesty, to the officers and soldiers of the regiment which had been employed on the occasion. These letters were transmitted by Wilkes to the paper, with certain remarks in which he termed the transaction a "massacre." The remarks were voted libellous, and he was again expelled the House, but his constituents deemed his conduct meritorious, and he was re-elected on the 16th February, 1769, without opposition; but he was declared, by the House of Commons on the following day, to be incapable of being elected, on the principle that the expulsion of a Member of Parliament was equivalent to exclusion, but notwithstanding this, he was a third time elected without opposition. Mr. Dingley indeed offered himself as candidate, but could not obtain so much as a nomination. This election was also declared to be void, and a new expedient was resorted to by Government, who persuaded Col. Luttrell to vacate his seat in Parliament, and oppose Wilkes at the coming election. In April, Wilkes was elected for the fourth time, by a majority of 1,143 votes, while Col. Luttrell had only 296, but the same day the House confirmed Col. Luttrell's election. Wilkes had by this time become the political idol of the people, and now, instead of barren triumph, he began to reap substantial rewards. A subscription was opened for the payment of his debts, and 29,000*l.* was collected in the course of a few weeks for that purpose, and for discharging his fine. A new society, established for the support of the Bill of Rights, presented him with 300*l.* An unknown patriot presented him with a purse containing 500 guineas. A tallow-chandler sent him a box containing 45 dozen candles; gifts of plate, wine, and household goods were daily heaped upon him, and all classes of persons seemed anxious to serve him.



In November, 1769, he brought an action against Lord Halifax, for false imprisonment, and the seizure of his papers, and obtained a verdict for 4,000*l.*, and, on the 17th of April, 1770, he was discharged from his imprisonment. On the 24th of the same month he was sworn as Alderman of the Ward of Farringdon Without. In this position he displayed his usual spirit of resistance to what he deemed an illegal exertion of authority. The House of Commons having resolved to restrain the liberty taken by certain newspapers in publishing the speeches of members, summoned certain printers to appear before it, who neglected to attend, and a royal proclamation was eventually obtained for apprehending them; and upon its authority, one of the printers was carried before Alderman Wilkes, who, deeming the apprehension to be illegal, and a breach of the privileges of the City of London, not only liberated the man, but obliged the captor to give bail for his appearance at the next sessions, to answer for his offence. The Lord Mayor Crosby and Alderman Oliver acted in a similar manner, with respect to two others who had been apprehended. As might be expected, the House of Commons was extremely indignant at these proceedings, and Crosby and Oliver, being members, were committed to the Tower. Wilkes received an order to attend at the bar of the House of Commons; but on the ground that the order was not properly framed, refused to do so, and the House could find no other expedient to save its authority than that of adjourning for the day on which Wilkes had been ordered to attend. Three years afterwards, in 1774, he was again elected member for the county of Middlesex, and was permitted to take his seat. His popularity was now on the wane; but, in obtaining the lucrative office of Chamberlain of the City of London, he had ample compensation for the loss of popular favour.

He succeeded, before finally quitting the stage of politics, in causing all the orders and resolutions concerning the Middlesex elections to be expunged from the journals of the House, they being "subversive of the rights of the whole body of the electors of the kingdom." From this time he deemed himself "a fire burnt out," and after a few years he retired into private life, and was speedily forgotten. He died December 26, 1797, aged 70, at his daughter's house in Grosvenor-square, and was buried in a vault under Grosvenor-chapel, where he directed a tablet to be placed with this inscription: "The remains of John Wilkes, a friend to liberty, born at London, October 17, 1727, O.S., died in this parish." He left two illegitimate children, but very little property. He was a man of fine taste, of elegant manners, and pleasing address. Amidst all the vicissitudes of his busy life, he managed to find time for the cultivation of classical literature, and, in 1790, published for the use only of his particular friends a splendid edition of the character of Theophrastus, and the poem of Catullus: he also made considerably progress in a translation of Anacreon.

